

INSIDE

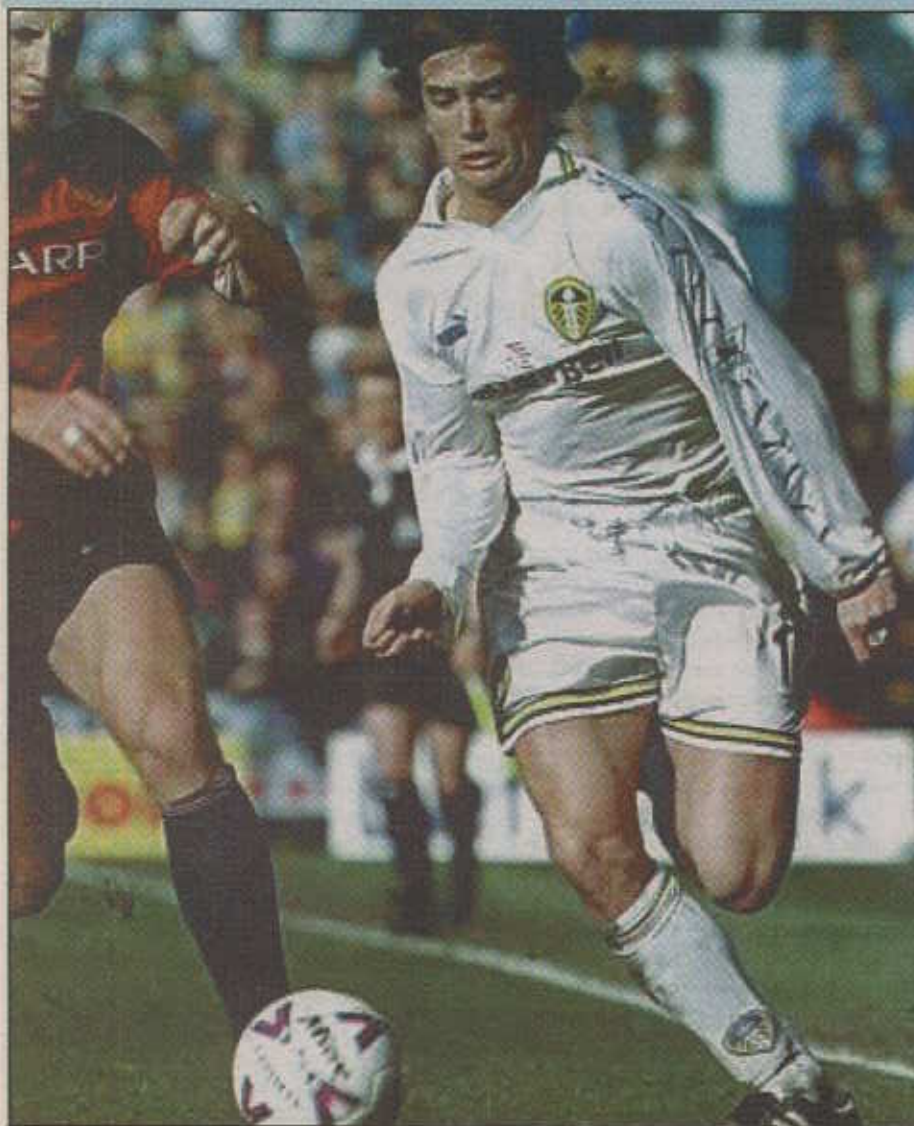
Your quality Australian weekly soccer paper for the new millennium

SOCCER

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Gripping final NSL round coming up



By Greg Blake

Either Perth Glory or Wollongong will play in this season's NSL grand final. That much we do know.

For Carlton, Marconi, Adelaide City, Sydney Olympic and Newcastle the next six days will decide the fate of an entire season.

The Breakers have a game in hand against Parramatta Power scheduled for tonight (Tuesday), which is critical to both Lee Sterrey's side and Carlton.

A Newcastle defeat ensures currently third-placed Carlton of a play-off invitation.

Victory for the 7th placed Breakers would push out-of-form Olympic from the top six for the first time since October and leave five clubs fighting for four spots, and all of them separated by a single game or less.

Following last weekend's penultimate full league round each of the five clubs ranked 3rd through 7th could all finish as high as third or out of the finals race altogether.

The possible permutations are made all the more complex with each team in the death or glory zone playing independently of each other.

Newcastle goes to South Melbourne, Adelaide hosts the Melbourne Knights, Olympic is at home to Sydney United, Marconi plays at Canberra and Carlton faces a home game against Wollongong City in the only all-top six clash of round 34.

Going into the final week of the regu-

lar season all that is written in stone is that either Perth Glory or the Wolves will take route one to the big game.

Next weekend's final round will decide the minor premiership and the recipient of a \$25,000 lure for finishing top of the table.

Perth will finish on top by beating Northern Spirit at Perth Oval on Sunday, but Glory can be overhauled for top spot should they draw and Wollongong wins at Carlton.

By virtue of superior goal difference the Wolves can also finish top should they get a point at Carlton and Northern Spirit upsets Perth. Newcastle's Tuesday night game against the Power is as big as any in that club's decade long NSL history.

The Breakers will go fourth with a win but a draw or worse would mean facing the final round from 7th place and in must-win territory, their fate no longer in their own hands.

A trip to Bob Jane Stadium is difficult enough for a club which is 0-2-7 away to South Melbourne all-time, but surely made even more daunting for Newcastle by the prospect of what is destined to be an emotion-charged occasion as South Melbourne farewells its dual-premiership winning coach, Ange Postecoglou.

Troubles also for Sydney Olympic, which is doing its level best to cough up a finals spot after spending the last seven months amongst the leading bunch.

Continued page three

Ange gets the job

We assess the Postecoglou (right) appointment and say, good choice SA.
Aussies Abroad

All the news and stories including Harry Kewell's (above) historic award.

Plus win a Real Pack worth \$250





Crooky

With one game remaining in the NSL we will be going over to Perth this Sunday determined to make them fight every inch to wrap up

the Minor Premiership, or the "League", where I come from.

Over the last two matches Arnie has given the young boys a chance to get an opportunity for first team football but we will be rolling back the established first grade players for the trip to Perth.

Matthew Bingley, Robbie Slater, Matthew Langdon, Sean Cranney and Paul Henderson will all be back for the match, which promises to be a fantastic occasion.

Like Northern Spirit, Perth have come into the competition and shown that the NSL has a real future and it is fitting that it is Northern Spirit and Perth that will play off in the final match to see if Perth can claim the Minor Premiership.

But a word of warning - don't expect any favours!

That would not be fair on Wollongong, who can still win the NSL Minor Premiership if they can topple Carlton and we can get over the top of Perth.

I am not suggesting it is going to be an easy task because we expect Perth Oval to be packed to the rafters for this match and the Glory players have a lot to play for.

Through a combination of injury, suspension and the need to have a look at a few young players, Arnie went into the match with

what must be one of the most inexperienced sides ever fielded.

Jess Van Stratten, Paul Weame, Shane Lyons, Adam Snyder, Tony Faria, Adam Griffiths, Ryan Griffiths and Simon Catanzaro all took part in the game with just 75 NSL matches between them.

In saying that, the lads did well against quality opposition and just like they did against Brisbane they ran out of steam and conceded a late goal to go down 1-0.

We have learned a lot over the past three matches and we now have to sit down and decide who stays and who goes for next season.

Ryan Griffiths was tremendous again against Parramatta, as was Jess (Van Stratten) and Adam Griffiths. Jack Sobczyk is obviously a talented player and although injured at the moment he will come into it.

All the other boys have also done well at various stages through the season with Catanzaro, Lyons and Snyder all playing more than 10 matches this year while Tony Faria has had some terrible injuries this year.

The match against Parramatta Power was the last home match of the season at North Sydney Oval and despite our terrible season we still finished with the second highest attendances in the NSL.

That says something about our fans, so THANK YOU and we will be back at North Sydney Oval in October.

Ian Crook

Northern Spirit and England

S-news

Inside Soccer's
Australian news
and gossip

HI GIRLS, LET'S PARTY

No names no pack drills. When you're on a handsome salary it would be nice to at least turn up to see you're teammates play, especially when the home ground is only ten minutes from your plush hotel (all paid for by your Australian club), even if you claim to be injured. With this in mind it was a surprise when one of S-news' female informants, on a girls night out, bumped into said player in the lift of a plush hotel while his team was battling away barely five kms away. Let's just say, football was the last thing on this lothario's mind, even though he was a little sheepish about not being at his club's game. The sad thing is, the club in question really needed him to perform this season. Respect is something you earn?

OOPS 2

Was that Leybutt and not Laybutt on the back of the Parramatta Power defender's shirt against Olympic recently? It reminds S-news of the time David Beckham was spelt wrong ... at Wembley of all places.

FREE MOVIE TICKETS

We still have some free tickets to see 'The Cup', which is a wonderful movie combining football and buddhism. Just send a stamped self-addressed envelope to Inside Soccer's post office box (see this page). And for those with Foxtel, a movie called Soccer Dog is coming up in May, about a boy and his incredible football playing pet! Also, on Channel 9, you can see Gazza's Soccer skills. This is a 15 min show focusing on some tricks of the trade, although you may need an interpreter to understand the former England great.

REAL PACK GIVEN AWAY

Don't forget our Real competition on page seven (with Inside Soccer's Melissa Muscat as the model!), you can win great Real prize pack worth a cool \$250.

UNITED'S SOCIAL DIARY

Sydney United will host their presentation night on Saturday May 20 at the King Tom Club. Cabramatta Golf Club will be the venue for their Golf Day on Friday May 26 beginning at 11am. The Golf Day will bring together players, staff, media, sponsors and fans. On Saturday the 10th of June, United will be afloat on Sydney Harbour with a special Harbour Cruise for all supporters. For more information call 9823 6418. Alexei Sayle to play Velimir Kupresak in the movie of the great man's life? It got a laugh at the Sydney United office.

FALCONS IN THE GOALS

Gippsland, scored over two goals for the first time in over two years when they beat Knights 3-2 recently.

CARLTON'S WEBCASTS

Have been very successful with many logging onto a text version of the club's away games. The club site is well worth visiting by the way.

HEIDELBERG UNITED FAMILY

OPEN DAY 14/5/00

Heidelberg will also have their Crown Casino Gala Night on 28/5/00. Tickets \$80.00 includes three course meal & drinks. Dress code smart. Email alexander@heidelbergunit-edsc.com.au to secure your seat. Please forward name and address details to receive ticket invitations. Tickets are limited. All info on club's website (see story in this issue)

SOUTHERN SHARKS

Put their application for entry into the NSL for next season to SocAus yesterday.

BLOC 5 SUPPORTERS

COMING TO TOWN

This Sunday is the final game for the Kingz in their inaugural season. Their fans have won many plaudits for their great support and humour. S-news will be catching up with a few of our Kiwi friends when they come to town. Here's a taste as published in the excellent fanzine Sitter! (see ad in this issue) of their singing prowess ...

To the tune of Blue Moon,

"De Jong,

His name's Fred de Jong,

We'll still be singing this song,

After his good looks have gone."

To the tune of Dad's Army

"Who do you think you are kidding

Parramatta

If you think old Auckland's done"

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

A gain from Sitter! "... Whether or not you are considered a good coach does not appear to come into it. Look at Glenn Hoddle." Wynton Rufer's view of the coaching world.

SPONSORS GONE?

One large sponsor of a successful Sydney club looks like they will bow to pressure and finish the deal that has been running for a few years now.

UNDERDOGS

Coach Tom Kilkelly knows better than most how tough survival in the WA Premier League will be for the club this winter and that is his primary objective for 2000, writes Brett Klucznik. Ashfield/Bunbury aren't a big club and didn't do a great deal of recruiting over the off-season, instead focusing on the talent they already have and fostering that. "The likes of Bunbury-based strikers Savo Garic and Brett Norrie have proved a handful, while brothers Damian and Daniel Trim have been making big strides in the top-flight ... on the day we've got players who can compete with the best players in the League." Kilkelly quickly emphasised that every player in his squad had an important role to play in a team that has no big name star players. "There is no way Ashfield will go into any game feeling comfortable," he said. "I keep telling the lads we are the underdogs."

INSIDE SOCCER

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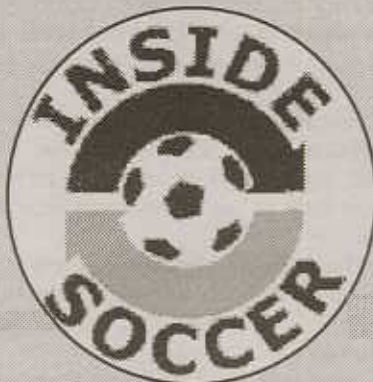
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Parramatta Power visited the offices of Power Credit Union in Parramatta last Thursday. Company CEO Vince Del Zio (extreme right) is seen here with players and staff. It was a fun event with Captain Power even getting behind reception to serve some customers!

Glory's big day this Sunday

While Breakers play tonight in must-win match against Power

Continued from front page

Olympic appears to have the plumb draw for the final round, hosting bottom side Sydney United.

Yet Branko Culina's team is stumbling badly with just a single win and five defeats from its last eight outings and the last time these two teams met in January Sydney United triumphed 2-0.

And that was when Olympic was playing its best footy and sitting at the top of the NSL tree.

Marconi gets Canberra away, a road trip now fraught with danger given the Cosmos' impressive spell of three consecutive wins in the last three rounds.

The spanner in the works for the six clubs lauded as most likely to contest the finals since last December has been - and no surprises here, mind you - Adelaide City.

For a time the spectre of the Zebs was only a distant speck in the rear vision mirror for the top six sides, but Zoran Matic's team has gone 14-4-4 since falling to a dead-last 16th on the NSL ladder late in 1999.

They've been red-hot in reeling off a 9-1-1 run since February and the 4-2 triumph at Marconi last Sunday has pushed Adelaide City into the top six for the very first time this season.

Adelaide City, which has a rich history of producing when it counts, hosts the Knights in the final round to decide whether the South Australian club will extend its already record-breaking run of 10 consecutive finals appearances by one.

And to add incentive to the Adelaide cause Matic needs one more NSL coach-

ing victory to tie the record of 177 careers wins, currently held by former Soccerroo boss, Frank Arok.

Meanwhile Lee Sterrey's Newcastle, reports Aidan Ormond, goes into tonight's deferred match against Parramatta Power absolutely desperate for the three points. However coach Sterrey still believes that his side can do the business in Melbourne next weekend if needed.

"Look, no-one tipped us to win in Perth recently and we beat them. Given our preparation for that game (the club had restricted training schedules due to rains in Newcastle) I would have thought we would have been thrashed.

"You blokes in the media don't think we can win in Melbourne against South but I think we can get a result," said Sterrey.

Breakers' stats reveal it will be an almighty task in what will be Ange Postecoglou's final game, but Newcastle have that habit of lifting when least expected, particularly against top six sides away from home.

Results aside Sterrey has already achieved a goal he set himself: bringing back the respect to the name Newcastle Breakers.

And the squad is showing its renowned tenacity. Two key defensive players are playing with needles, both have delayed operations to keep the Breakers' finals run on track, despite the off-field financial dramas that Sterrey said have affected his side.

"I won't be saying too much to the



Glory's Jamie Harnwell: scored against Wolves on Sunday. His side is now the hot tip for the minor premiership.

boys before the game, we've still got to win one game out of the two minimum. We should have won on Friday night against South; we dominated for 60 minutes but didn't take our chances. That's just the way it goes.

"We had a good session on Sunday and I feel I've picked them up from the canvas after Friday's loss," said the man many say could win coach of the year.

'Posti' posting delivers good outcome



Inside Soccer says that the appointment of South Melbourne's Ange Postecoglou as national youth coach is a good one for Australian Soccer. It's good because Postecoglou - a studious young coach with a penchant for keeping the hype surrounding his sides low-key - has proven himself at domestic level.

First as an assistant to the legendary coach Frank Arok, and then as a coach of the back-to-back champions. Even if this season has not lived up to the expectations, South's overall performance in the WCC was excellent. Perhaps not surprisingly it took the focus off matters domestic.

At WCC 2000 Postecoglou showed that he was not out of place at the next level. He is also well-liked and is young enough to have the job for many years should he want it.

This appointment also sends out an encouraging signal that there can be a future in this game should a local coach succeed at NSL level (good news indeed for the likes of Sterrey, Krncevic, Culina and Nick T).

Perhaps Postecoglou also had the imprimatur from national coach Frank Farina, who may view someone like him as less of a threat to his position than some other possible candidates?

In truth, the job has come around at a perfect time for the South coach; his club is notoriously unforgiving no matter who the man in charge is.

Whatever happens it will be interesting to see how our youth sides play under 'Posti'. And the 34-year-old won't be short of talent, with players such as Shroji, Owens, Byrnes, Sham Yuen at his disposal for the upcoming campaigns later this year.

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GREG BLAKE
C7 SOCCER COMMENTATOR
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The hopes of every footy dreamer are with the Newcastle Breakers today as they prepare for tonight's (Tuesday) moment of truth.

The re-scheduled round 29 clash with Parramatta Power at Breakers Stadium is now Newcastle's date with destiny; a win in this showdown and long-suffering Breakers fans can just about look forward to play-offs for the



Criticism from another NSL coach does not bother him. "I'm only worried about my team," says the contender for coach of the year, Lee Sterrey.

first time.

In a competition that desperately needs a degree of parity to ensure continued interest and success by clubs based outside the capitals to maintain as broad a public profile as possible, this club's fairy-tale rise should be greeted with enthusiasm.

Unfortunately, the Breakers' success - and surely even if they do stumble over the final hurdle their best-ever season must be deemed a success - hasn't quite been greeted the generosity it deserves.

The ill-informed have continued to perpetuate the stereotypical crap about Newcastle's 'defensive' style but Breaker-bashing crumbled to an even grubbier low recently when one opposition coach - whose team, by the way, is not in the finals - showed a decided lack of class to publicly rip Newcastle for no obvious reason.

Following a game not even involving the Breakers said coach dismissed Lee Sterrey's mob as "just another team who can't play".

"Yeah, for sure I am (sick of the criticism)," countered Sterrey.

"But he can think what he wants because I am not interested in getting into a war of words over it.

"I am only worried about my team.

"And for me, I wouldn't swap my team's character and spirit for any other.

"I've been coaching for 15 or 20 years and in that time this is the best spirit of seen amongst any group of players in that time.

"They deserve more respect."

Just a curiously revealing stat for those still unconvinced about Newcastle's right to even be in the race to go the NSL's big dance at all.

On a head-to-head basis the top six 'league within a league' defines Newcastle's credentials as a genuine contender.

Calculations based only on games between the top six teams - as they were placed going into last weekend - over the course of the season thus far shows that Newcastle is actually as good as any team

going around this season.

The Breakers 4-5-1 record in top six head-to-head battles puts them at 56.7 percent success in the heavyweight games that count, rating the Breakers higher than Marconi (5-4-3 at 52.8%), Perth Glory (4-3-4 at 45.5%), Olympic (3-5-3 at 42.4%) or Carlton (2-3-3 at 37.5%).

And somewhat surprisingly, before their appointment with Perth at the weekend Wollongong were stumbling along dead last, rating a lamentable 23.3 percent on the basis of a 1-4-5 season record against the big guns this season.

Wollongong has been a breath of fresh air to the NSL this season and they richly deserve the lingering look at the minor premiership, awarded to the team which ends the regular season top of the ladder.

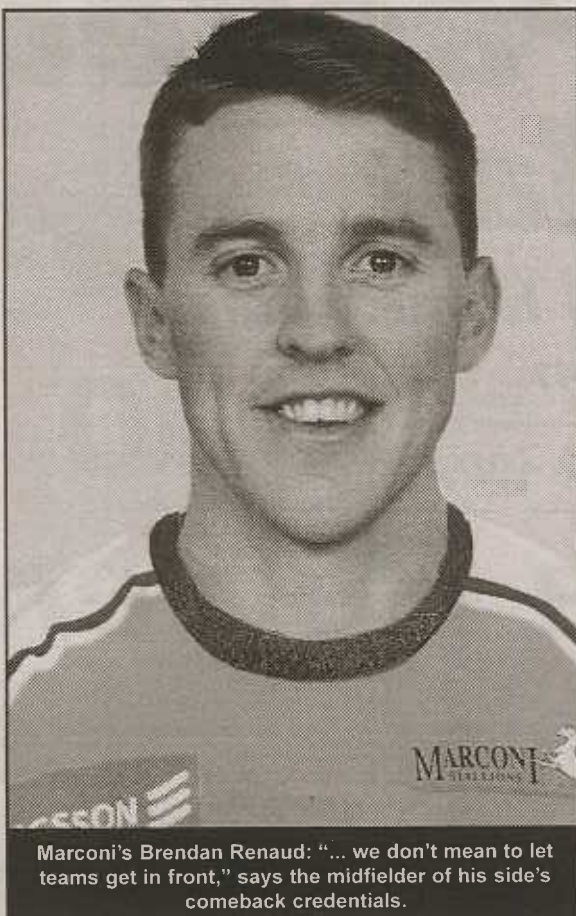
While there is no intention of demeaning the achievements of the Wolves this season, the above-mentioned numbers (see previous story) do underscore the argument of those who embrace finals footy as the most accurate guide to the best team in it.

Even Nick Theodorakopoulos would be hard pressed to justify declaring Wollongong champions of the national competition on the basis of a 1-4-5 win/loss record against the other class performers in the field.

Going into last weekend, apart from a 3-2 squeaker against Carlton in January, the Wolves had yet to beat Olympic, Marconi, Newcastle or Glory at all this season.

Wollongong might have been the most consistent team over the course of a season, thus the reward of a literally minor premiership victory.

Good enough to bully the also-rans



Marconi's Brendan Renaud: "... we don't mean to let teams get in front," says the midfielder of his side's comeback credentials.

(Wollongong has scored 59 of its record-breaking 71 goals for the campaign against the rest and only 12 in ten games versus the big guns) the Wolves have earned an inalienable right to a decent shot at the major prize.

The next step is to get the job done face to face against the best of the best and by winning on the day; the essence of any sport at any level in its purest form.

Why is it necessary for the NSL to persist in cramming two full league rounds in over the Easter break?

As happens every year, crowds over the second half of the Easter program slumped noticeably; it's too big a slug for family footy goes to donate twice at the turnstiles in such a short period.

Particularly for a league which is not fully professional it is a big ask for players, coaching staff and match officials and even more demanding on the hundreds of people who take on the un-paid chores of marking the grounds, staffing the canteens, sell the raffle tickets etc. etc.

Interesting to note that while the league schedules some 16 games over the period the governing body itself does not staff the business offices of Soccer Australia at all during the Easter period.

Although according to league GM, Stefan Kamasz, SA staff are on call.

"If the whole thing broke down because a critical issue couldn't be resolved we can always be contacted," he told me.

"But if it's business as usual I don't see the problem."

Wollongong's WIN Stadium has been given the official thumbs up as a possible grand final venue - providing the playing arena is up to scratch.

A league delegation inspected that ground and Newcastle's Marathon Stadium recently and deemed WIN Stadium fit to hold the NSL's biggest game of the year, should the home town Wolves earn the right to host the game.

League GM, Stefan Kamasz, called the WIN Stadium pitch a "shocker" after the inspection but said there had been reassurances from ground management that the playing arena would be in top shape for the NSL showpiece in June.

"The only issue is the state of the pitch and I am concerned that there is a rugby league game scheduled there only two days before the grand final," Kamasz explained.

"But WIN Stadium is certainly right up there."

One stadium certain to get some further NSL fixtures is Gosford's North Power Stadium, where Northern Spirit hosted Canberra in front of over 10,000 fans over Easter.

Kamasz believes NSL games could fill the impressive stadium "with the right game" and I understand the Newcastle Breakers and Northern Spirit clubs have discussed the possibility of playing each other there next season.

Tenacious Marconi champ, Brendan Renaud, says he wasn't aware that the Stallions are once again set to be crowned the NSL's 'comeback kings' for season 1999/2000.

Marconi took the crown last season by coming back from the dead to win seven games and draw another and have followed up this season under first-year boss, Eddie Krncevic, with nine come from behind efforts (five wins and four draws) before last weekend's games.

"I don't think we're really aware of it," Renaud said of a Stallions team which has scored a

remarkable 35 of its 50 goals this season after half time, including 27 in the final half hour of games.

"But once we get on a roll we do tend to come home well over the last 10 or 15 minutes.

"This is a very physical team, very fit, and we know what we're capable of.

"Obviously we don't mean to let teams get in front but we don't panic and we just stick to the game plan.

"If we can just concentrate on what we're



Is Zoran Matic getting too much credit for the Force revival? asks one City player.

doing there's just a sense that, 'well, if they can score two in 15 minutes, then what can we do over the next 45."

By the way, the team which has coughed up the most games this season just happens to be the ladder-leading Wollongong Wolves.

They might be the fastest starters in the competition but they've also given away game leads in ten matches this season (3 losses and 7 draws).

Acouple of big milestones just passed which should be afforded some acknowledgment.

Not content to win a grand final off his own boot (Marconi, 1992/93), six club veteran, current Newcastle inspiration and aspiring TV superstar, Andy Harper, became the 31st player to join the NSL's 300 game club over the Easter rounds.

Joining him soon should be Marconi's Francis Awaritefe, who was two off the mark going into last weekend, and Damian Mori, who will pass 300 career games should Adelaide City steal into the finals.

And Paul Trimboli reaches his 350th club match (372 career) with South Melbourne this weekend.

Damian Mori's recent hot streak has taken him into legend territory.

Following his round 32 double against Gippsland Mori's NSL career record of 146 goals in 295 games puts him level with Frank Farina, the league's best-ever centurion, whose goals per game average was 0.495 per game.

The current Socceroo boss finished his NSL career with 102 goals in 206 games.

According to one Adelaide City player no less, the club's legendary coach, Zoran Matic, gets far too much credit for what has become the club's now traditional end of season drive for the top six.

Setting aside this season's effort - the Croweaters were dead last in mid-December - the Zebs have come from ninth or worse on the ladder to make the finals with a late rush in five of the past eight seasons that Matic has been at the helm.

But my Zebra informant reckons the myth that Matic times his team's run-in each year is just that.

"It's not that Zoran gets us up at all," he told me.

"The simple fact is that we just don't get that much quality pre-season competition like the Victorian and NSW players and we always come into a season behind the rest.

"It's not as much to do with Zoran as it is that it just takes us time to run into form every year."

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Heidelberg look to Africa for inspiration

When doing any NSL retrospective the name Heidelberg United is bound to crop up. After all, it was one of Melbourne's strongest clubs, forming a rivalry with South Melbourne that brought in blockbuster crowds, and it had players, history and success to back up its claims to be one of the nation's big guns.

Heidelberg United Soccer Club (formerly Alexander) was formed in 1958. In 1977 it was one of the founding members of the NSL.

From 1977-1987 Heidelberg United was one the most successful clubs in the league; between 1982 and 1986 nine players represented Australia.

It's a club that has also produced talent such as Andy Vlahos, John and Dean Anastasiadis, Michael Curcija, David

Clarkson, Steve Iosifidis to name a few.

However, success came at a price for the club. Its commitment and its investment to soccer in the eighties, saw the club heavily in debt and with the restructure of the NSL, Heidelberg was omitted from the competition.

Between 1989-1996 it was re-admitted and omitted, struggling to achieve its early success while others prospered.

Today, Heidelberg United Soccer Club is a different club from the turmoil of the 90's. With the restructure of its debts and with the control of the club by a young and enthusiastic committee, the club is aiming to return to its former glory.

The club has been actively working closer with the local community to support the club and has just given associate



Action from one of the colossal Melbourne derbies between Heidelberg United and South Melbourne. These games would regularly pull massive crowds.

membership to the Somalian Community Organisation of Australia.

It is estimated this should bring an extra 2-3,000 new spectators to the club over a period of time. The national sport of Somalia is soccer and with an estimated 6-8000 Somalians living nearby, and with a 30 Somalian kids playing in the juniors, it was a smart choice by Heidelberg.

Also Heidelberg United is now online at www.heidelbergunitedsc.com.au.

Stage one of their Olympic Village home ground upgrade commences on the 10/5/00. This will see 300 new seats put into the main grandstand, replacing the old and damaged ones.

To assist with the development costs Heidelberg United have set up the Alexander Foundation which is looking for donations from businesses and supporters to help build the club.

The project is in the process of being registered with the Australian Sports Foundation. For many businesses it would mean they can claim the donation as a tax deduction.

Anybody wishing to donate can mark cheques to Alexander Foundation PO Box 8214, Preston 3072.

Donations greater than \$100 will receive a free season ticket for the next season as well as a plaque with their name on the back of the new seats.



As reported last week, the VSF, in conjunction with all the Victorian NSL clubs and sponsor, Crazy John's, held their annual soccer superclinic at the MCG.

Over 800 kids were delighted to see Olyroo stars such as Simon Colosimo give them free tuition on the ground the Olyroos will be playing on in September during the Olympics.



From L to R: Michael Curcija, Zeljko Susa and Simon Colosimo at the MCG for the Crazy John's Superclinic of Soccer.

The tradition continues

this Sunday

at Belmore Sports Ground

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Spirit fans at North Sydney Oval.

By Aidan Ormond

Remo Nogarotto is so right. As the Spirit Chairman notes, when the side is doing well on the park it can mask the goings on off the park. One such issue causing much discussion in the cafes and bars of the north shore is the future home ground of Northern Spirit.

The likely scenario, in the short-term at least, is for the Central Coast to be used for holiday time games two-four times a season, while the club remains in Sydney.

The atmosphere-laden home ground of North Sydney Oval (NSO) is popular with the Spirit fans, a view long-time supporter Tancred Fergus concurs with, despite the feeling that some fans are "not made to feel that welcome at the ground and at some pubs close by."

Yet some say Brookvale Oval - a ground being talked about as a possible new Spiritual home - is more 'football friendly' and has better corporate facilities.

Superimposed over these scenarios is a very cool relationship between the landlords of North Sydney Oval, North Sydney Council, and its tenants, Spirit.

Both appear to have differing views of the ground's social and sporting role.

"I'm on the public record as saying the ground at North Sydney Oval is not a perfect

venue for football, principally because of the cricket pitch sitting in the middle," said Nogarotto last week.

He continued: "Nor is it a perfect venue for tenants wishing to use corporate facilities, which in the modern era is a major aspect of any club's operation. Thus there are some serious shortcomings associated with the ground."

"On the positive side it has a charm and romance that some of the modern stadia do not have."

"My preferred position," he explained, "would be to stay at North Sydney Oval and try to establish a dialogue with North Sydney Council. This would see a resolution of two pressing issues: lighting that is brought in by us every home game and relocating the cricketers from the main ground to oval number two, which would finally see the ground lend itself properly to football," he said of those vexatious issues.

"North Sydney Council is putting history ahead of the voting punters of Northern Sydney," noted the former NSW Liberal Party boss.

"10-15,000 see Spirit on a Friday night and three blokes and a kelpie see Cricket on a Saturday. At the moment those three cricket fans are winning."

"I accept that the ground has a huge historical importance but the council needs to understand that if Northern Spirit is to sign a

It's just not Cricket

long-term lease those two issues must be resolved.

"Generally our relationship with the council is okay, but from time to time with the huge cost of staging games at North Sydney I have been most upset and the relationship has been strained," he added.

"It almost appears that the council genuflects at the altar of cricket. We provide significant revenue to the council but it seems like it's the cricketers who come first."

"Hopefully we can resolve things satisfactorily ... I think the council has to make up its mind about what North Sydney Oval is, whether it's an active or passive sporting facility."

"If it's passive then I think our days there

Northern Spirit started playing there in October 1998; grade Cricket in that time has attracted approximately 1,000 spectators.

It's a point the Mayor seems keen not to explore.

"I don't know where you're going with this line of questioning?" she asked when it was suggested that Spirit fans were also voters at Council elections.

"You're so out of touch, people don't vote for a council based on a soccer team," she said incredulously.

"Spirit fans don't pay for the Oval, North Sydney residents do."

The Mayor added that Northern Spirit's fans were largely from outside of the North Sydney area.

"This is not a commercial Oval. North Sydney Oval does not belong to any sport, particularly commercial organizations like Northern Spirit, it belongs to the people of North Sydney ... it's not there for commercial gain."

McCaffery added that she was not impressed with Northern Spirit's continued criticism of the North Sydney Council in the local press, particularly the *Manly Daily*.

"Given there are a few issues that have to be resolved between us and Northern Spirit I would have thought criticizing the council publicly was not a good idea."

"When Spirit started, the deal was they would share the ground with the cricket, now they want to change that."

There is technology to remove the cricket wicket, but Spirit has to pay for that, as they do the hiring of the lights.

"10-15,000 see Spirit on a Friday night and three blokes and a kelpie see the cricket on a Saturday"

Remo Nogarotto

are numbered, and the cricketers can rest easy. If they want it to be an active sporting ground for the community then they have to resolve those issues."

North Sydney Mayor Genia McCaffery also believed NSO had community responsibilities, although her interpretation was different: "It belongs to the people of North Sydney," she said.

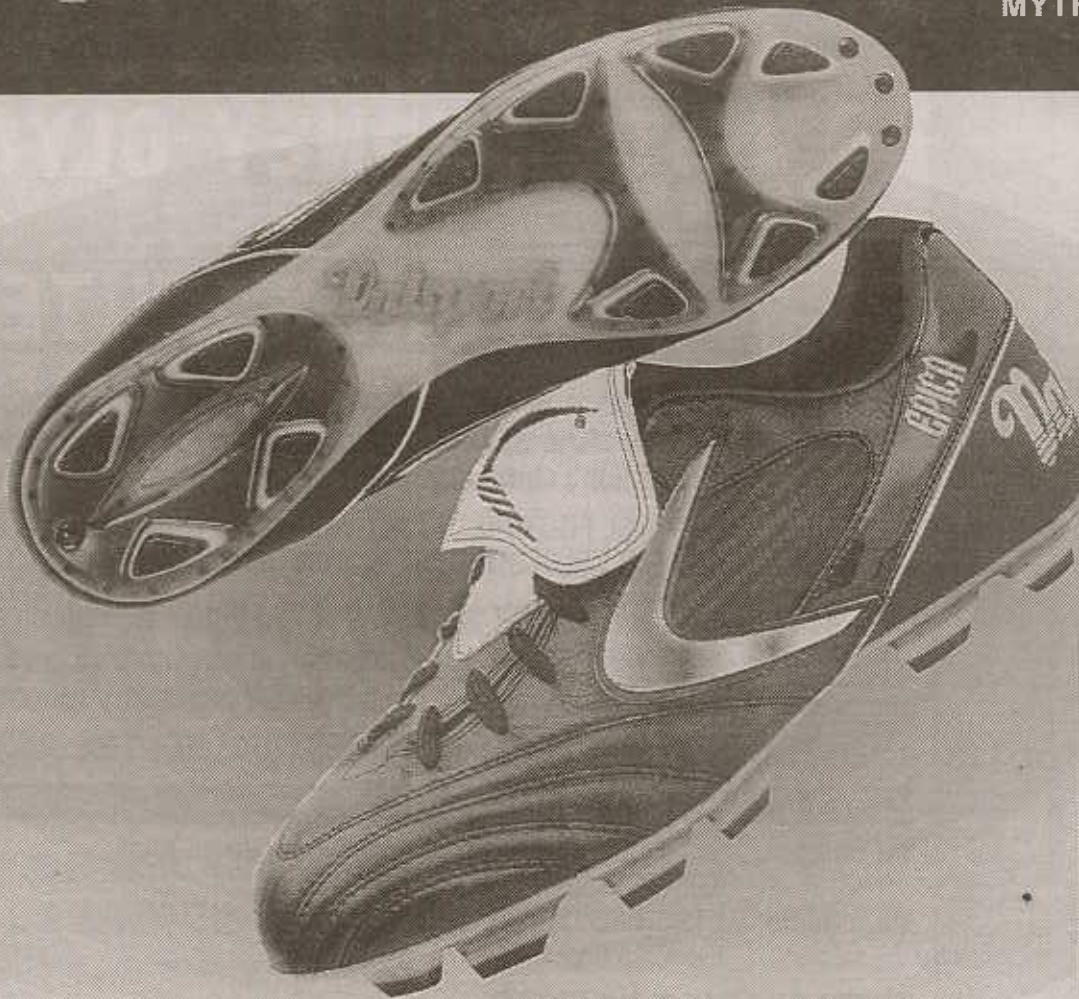
Approximately 300,000 plus fans have seen soccer at North Sydney Oval since

Continued on page seven

Valsport

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VICTORIA:

Pascoe Vale Sportscene,
Reservoir Sports,
Karl's Megaspots,
World of Soccer,
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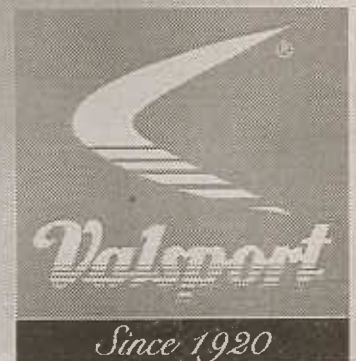
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Continued from page six

"All we can do," explained McCaffery, "is run a community asset for the people of North Sydney who, after all, pay for the Oval. If Northern Spirit want to go to the Central Coast or Brookvale, that's their choice."

"We've acceded to nearly all of Spirit's demands ... I'm sorry if I'm sounding exasperated but we have put ourselves out for them and all we get is backstabbing in the local paper and frankly, I'm a little tired of it," said the frustrated Mayor.

"We don't even have a lease with them! The only courtesy we get is bagging the council in the papers for failing to do certain things. It's not a good way to have a relationship," she added.

The council, said the Mayor, had no intention of redeveloping the ground by adding a new stand where the Hill is.

"It's a listed heritage on the North Sydney and State register. There are already so many large venues in Sydney that's why at 18,000 it's a perfect middle-size venue. The last thing we want to be doing is competing with the SFS, SCG and Stadium Australia."

The Mayor did however say that should Spirit give them a guarantee they will be at the ground next season and beyond, that may expedite some of the issues currently under the microscope.

"The fans at Northern Spirit should be talking with their own club, who should be treating their landlords in a better fashion. They should get their own house in order before they criticize us," ended Mayor McCaffery.

One could say Spirit is caught between a rock (that is a rock-like cricket pitch) and a hard place. Given the location, moving to Brookvale Oval would make it more difficult for fans, a view Tancred Fergus and many others concur with. On the other hand, it is more central for the northern beaches and it does have a rectangular ground with good corporate facilities.

And the word is Warringah Council is very keen to have Spirit there.

However North Sydney Oval is a terrific ground, has easy access and a lovely feel during summer.

Spirit now has to work out where it wants to play. If it's at North Sydney they need to sit down and rationally work through these issues with the council.

It would seem staying at North Sydney Oval has benefits for both parties.

Glory squad takes shape for new season

By Brett Klucznik

Perth Glory striker Bobby Despotovski has committed the rest of his playing career to the club by signing a new three-year deal.

"I'm very happy with the deal," he said. "It takes me up until I'm 31. Maybe I'll be finished playing in the NSL by then, but if I'm still good enough I hope I can sign on a year-to-year basis after that."

The 28-year-old former Heidelberg United player had received offers to join Marconi Stallions and South Melbourne in recent times. But Despotovski wanted to stay in Perth and entered into negotiations with Glory last month to put out his future.

"I'll become a father for the first time in two weeks time, so it's good to have the security of a long-term contract."

Despotovski is only one of four Glory players who have been with the club since their entry into the NSL, the others being captain Gareth Naven, wingback Scott Miller and sweeper Vinko Buljubasic.

Glory are currently negotiating contracts with several other players whose agreements expire at the end of June.

They are hoping to wrap-up discussions with Troy Halpin, Buljubasic and James Afkos within the next month. Brazilian defensive midfielder Edgar, who joined Glory on a one-year deal last September, is likely to be offered an extension after a fantastic debut NSL season. But fellow countryman Aurelio is almost certain to be returning to his Brazilian club having been on loan to

Glory since January.

Coach Bernd Stange is hopeful of making three name signings for next season and has made it clear he's targeting Sydney Olympic striker Pablo Cardozo and South Melbourne trio Steve Iosifidis, Michael Curcija and Robert Liparoti.

Kingz' Che Bunce and Marconi Stallions Brad Maloney have also been linked with a move west.

In addition, Stange is keen to lure at least one player from Europe. It is not clear if that player is Ulf Kirsten, who was linked with Glory around Christmas.

Meanwhile Perth Glory coach Bernd Stange has been immortalised by the Swan Brewery who have adorned 25,000 cases of Emu Draft Midstrength beer with his image.

The brewery's sponsorship manager Bruce Laird said they wanted to celebrate the achievement's Glory had made in 2000 and Stange was the obvious choice for a commemorative can. "Normally we'd do an entire team or a player," said Laird.

"But because of the outstanding positive impact Bernd has had on raising the profile of soccer in Western Australia we thought it only appropriate we recognise his efforts by producing the commemorative can."

It is the third time in Glory's brief existence that they have been tributed with commemorative cans.



Bobby Despotovski: one of Glory's originals, he has pledged his future to the glamour club of Australian soccer.

During their debut season in the NSL, the Swan Brewery produced Emu Draft Bitter cans recognising Glory's entry into the competition and what they achieved.

18 months later it was the Coca-Cola company that acknowledged the club by featuring a caricature of captain Gareth Naven on their cans.

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AUSSIES on the world stage

A round-up of how our Aussies players fared abroad this last week ...

Kewell's award huge honour for Aussie Soccer

Harry Kewell yesterday became the first Australian player to win the English PFA Young Player of Year award. The award is based on votes by fellow professionals and Kewell also finished third in the Player of the Year award which was won by Manchester United captain Roy Keane.

Kewell capped off a remarkable weekend by being included in the Premier League team of the year after he was into third place behind Keane and Kevin Phillips in the Footballer of the Year as voted by the Football Writers' Association.

Of all the young stars at Leeds, the Australian international is regarded as the jewel in the crown. The 21-year-old has had his best season and has had a most productive scoring season having scored 17 goals so far this season. He was the only player on the short-list of both the Player of the Year and the Young

UEFA of the "joke charge" of stamping - the red card will remain against Kewell's name.

Kewell was dismissed by Slovenian referee Lubos Michel just before half-time of Leeds' second leg of their ill-fated semi-final against Galatasaray courtesy of defender Gheorghe Popescu's reaction to an innocuous challenge.

Michel felt Australian international Kewell had stamped on Popescu, although video evidence proved no such incident took place, while the Romanian this week also vindicated the 21-year-old.

Boss David O'Leary had initially accused Popescu of "cheating" in the wake of the 2-2 draw, with Leeds going out of the competition 4-2 on aggregate, an outburst over which he has no regrets.

"I'm delighted Harry's got off," said O'Leary. "But I had no fear over it because I thought it was a joke charge to answer in the first place."

"Popescu must have looked at it on the TV and thought how embarrassing and ridiculous it was. He then had to try and salvage some PR out of it."

"But you heard me after the second game. I called him a cheat on the night, and although I didn't like calling him that, that's what he did."

The young Aussie was in the Leeds line-up on the weekend in their visit to Sheffield Wednesday where they maintained their challenge for a Champions Cup place for next season with 0-3 victory. Kewell played the full game and his 68th-minute strike stole the show, an impudent 25-yard shot with the outside of his left foot that went in off the bar.

Mark Bosnich's problems in the Manchester United goals this season has seen numerous speculation about a new 'keeper at Old Trafford for next season.

The latest gossip sees the champions are being linked with a move for Fiorentina star Francesco Toldo in a bid to fill their troublesome goalkeeping spot.

In the meantime Bosnich's injury has kept him out of United's latest games - a 3-2 home win over Chelsea and a 2-3 away victory over Watford.

In the Watford game Richard Johnson came on for the home team in the 86th minute.

In other transfer speculation sources

close to the club report that Paul Okon has agreed a deal and will join Middlesbrough.

Okon made one of his rare recent appearances on the weekend when he came on as a substitute in the 67th minute as Fiorentina beat Lecce 3-0 at home.

In other English Premier League games Mark Schwarzer had little to do as Middlesbrough visited West Ham and came away with 0-1 victory to consolidate their mid table position.

The Nationwide Division is reaching its climax with only one to go and plenty of interest for Australian football fans with a number of Aussies playing for clubs involved in the promotion race and the relegation struggle.

Danny Tiatto seemed as if he and his team Manchester City would be celebrating their promotion to the Premier League on the weekend. Having drawn 2-2 away to Portsmouth in a mid-week game and beaten Birmingham 1-0 at home on Friday City put the pressure on the only club that could usurp them from the automatic second position, Ipswich Town.

The brave and tenacious Tiatto played the full ninety minutes in both games for City and was one of the heroes of the win over fifth placed Birmingham.

Stan Lazaridis played in both of Birmingham's games during the week, the loss to City and the 2-0 win over Walsall earlier in the week. Birmingham are in fifth spot with one game to go but six points in front of seventh placed Bolton and eight points in front of eight placed Wolverhampton who have one and two games in hand respectively.

Although not guaranteed of a play-off spot Birmingham have a good goal difference and would be very unlucky to miss out on a chance to fight for the last promotion position which will be between the teams finishing in third to sixth position.

At the bottom end of the table Frank Talia's Swindon is in dead last spot and planning for a Division Two campaign for next season. Talia played in the 3-0 mid-week loss to who should have been further ahead at half time, but for the agility of Talia who made some excellent saves. Things got worse for the visitors when Talia received his marching orders on 67 minutes for a deliberate handball outside his area which meant that he missed the team's 1-2 weekend home loss to Barnsley.

On the other hand Jason Kearton and Jason Van Blerk are hanging onto a razor's edge as their teams enter the last week in grave danger of relegation.

Van Blerk's West Brom are in fourth last spot, equal on points with the third last relegation spot team Walsall.

West Brom have had a good week picking up four points in the two games with a 2-1 mid-week home win over Grimsby Town and a 0-0 weekend draw away to Queens Park Rangers. Van Blerk played the full game mid-week and was replaced in the 58th minute against QPR after receiving a yellow card earlier in the game.

Aussie George Kulscar was one of the unused substitutes for QPR.

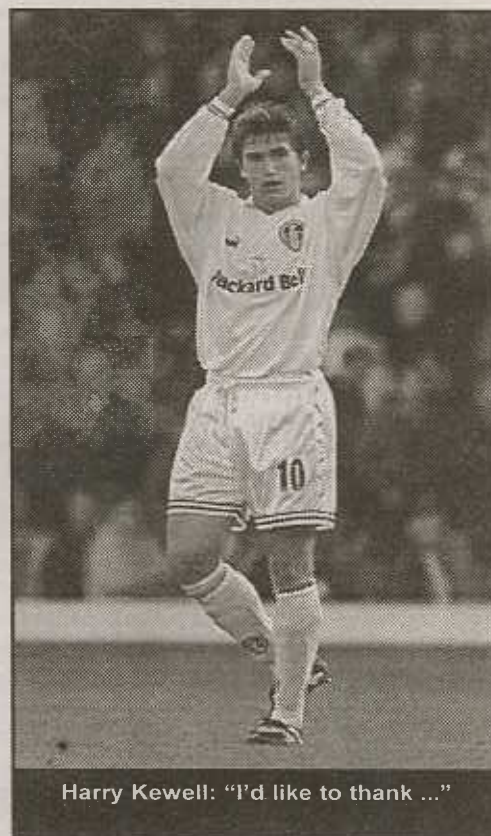
Kearton's Crewe Alexandra, on the other hand have not had a good week with a 1-1 away draw mid-week against Sheffield United and a 1-3 home loss to Bolton on the weekend. Kearton played in both games with the one point keeping Crewe two points above West Brom and Walsall.

In the Sheffield game Aussie Shaun Murphy played the full game but was absent in the team's 2-1 away loss to Norwich on the weekend.

In other Division One games Craig Foster played in both of Crystal Palace's games - a 1-0 away loss to Ipswich mid-week and a 2-1 home win over Blackburn. Nick Rizzo was on the bench for both games with the weekend victory ensuring Palace's spot in the division for next season.

John Filan made a welcome return from injury to sit on the Blackburn's bench in the loss to Palace.

In Nationwide Division Two action Millwall had a disappointing two games during



Harry Kewell: "I'd like to thank ..."

the week. In contention for the automatic promotion second position last week they are now in danger of missing out on a play-off spot after a 2-2 home draw with fellow promotion chasers Gillingham and a 3-2 away defeat by champions Preston. Millwall is in sixth position but only three points in front of seventh placed Stoke City who have two game in hand.

Lucas Neill made his starting comeback in the Gillingham game but was replaced in the 68th minute while Tim Cahill was substituted in the 87th minute.

Millwall scored two goals in the first eight minutes but in the Preston game they were conceded two goals in the same time period and were three goals down at half time. They replied with two goals early in the second half including one by Neill who came on as a 29th minute replacement while Cahill played the whole game.

Steve Mautone was the replacement 'keeper for Gillingham in both of his team's game which included a 2-0 home win over Brentford as well as the Millwall game.

In the Scottish Premier League Celtic continued their miserable end to the season when they were held to a 1-1 draw at Motherwell. Mark Viduka played the full game but also carried on with his 'quiet' end to the season failing to score again. He did play a prominent role in the game though, including missing a penalty which he earned, although in dubious circumstances, hit the post and came close on a couple of other occasions.

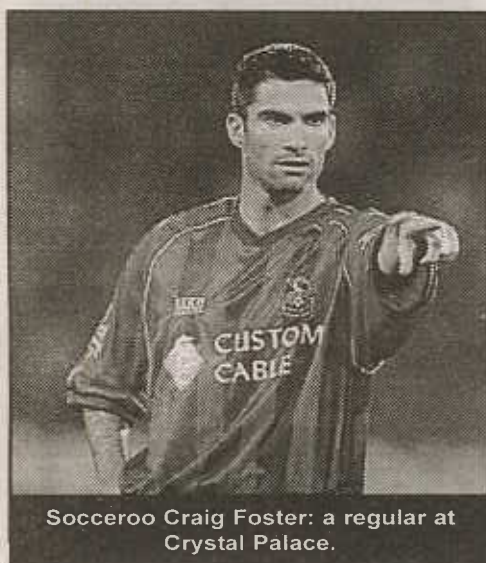
Stuart Lovell played a full game for Hibs as they beat Aberdeen 1-0 at home while Tony Vidmar came on in the 74th minute in his comeback game from injury as Rangers Dundee 3-0 at home. Craig Moore has not yet returned from his injury.

In Germany, David Zdrilic celebrated his second game back from an injury with two goals but unfortunately the opponents Kaiserslautern replied with six as SSV Ulm suffered a 6-2 away loss. Zdrilic scored the opening goal and played the full match.

Ned Zelic was back in the 1860 Munchen starting line-up and played the full game when they drew 2-2 away to Schalke 04. Paul Agostino was missing from this week's line up as Munchen fights for a European place next season. They are currently in fifth spot only one point away from fourth place and qualification for the UEFA Cup.

In Holland, Zeljko Kalac recovered from a cork suffered prior to last week's game to play for Roda JC in a 3-2 home win over FC Twente.

Ante Milicic was absent from the Rijeka team in a 2-0 home win over Hajduk for whom Tony Grcic was replaced in the 55th minute.



Socceroo Craig Foster: a regular at Crystal Palace.

Player of the Year award category.

Kewell won the Young Player award ahead of Leeds colleagues Lee Bowyer and Michael Bridges, plus Joe Cole of West Ham, Steven Gerrard of Liverpool and Coventry's Robbie Keane.

Meanwhile Kewell has been cleared by

Aussies in Asia

By Scott O'Donell

Alan Vest's Geylang Eagles finally got their act together when they walloped Marine Castle 7 - 1. Although they have been getting some good results, they have not been very convincing up until this round.

Marine Castle's two Aussies, Anthony Carbone and Michael Garcia could do nothing to stop the onslaught. Brian Bothwell and former Perth Glory player Gavin Wilkinson both got on the scoresheet, in what was a completely one-sided affair.

Mirko Jurilj and his team Sembawang Rangers are struggling this season with only one win and two draws from their eight matches. In a team that boasts two Thai internationals, they have not lived up to expectations. They were beaten 3 - 0 by Jurong in what was a convincing display by the home side.

Darren Stewart's Balestier Central's season is going from bad to worse. This week the team that has propped up the table since the start of the season was thrashed 4 - 1 by Tampines Rovers.

Ernie Tapai marked his return from injury with a goal in his team's 1 - 1 draw with

Gombak United. Home United looked to have had the three points sewn up when Gombak snatched an equaliser in injury time.

In other matches, competition leaders SAFFC sneaked a 1 - 0 win over strugglers Woodlands Wellington, while Tanjong Pagar came from two goals down to earn a 3 - 3 draw with Clementi Khalsa.

After eight rounds SAFFC lead the competition with 21 points followed by Geylang and Tanjong Pagar both on 18 points. Defending champions Home United are in sixth position on 13 points.

As the season progresses there seems to be a gulf between the top six teams and the bottom six teams. Although there have been a few surprise results this season, the quality and depth of the teams currently in the top half of the table seems to be far superior to that of the bottom teams.

The S League has tried to prevent this situation from occurring by implementing a salary cap but it doesn't seem to have worked. With promotion and relegation rumoured to be introduced next year, it will be interesting to see how the bottom clubs react in the coming off-season.

Card Update

PLAYERS:	Y	R	Tot
Che Bunce	8	2	10
Jacob Burns	9	1	10
Harry James	9	1	10
Jamie Hamwell	10	0	10
Danny Burt	10	0	10
Stuart McLaren	10	0	9
Manny Gotis	8	1	9
Lee Jones	8	1	9
Vince Savoca	8	1	9
Gabriel Mendez	9	0	9
Andy Vargas	9	0	9
Walter Ardone	6	2	8
Troy Halpin	6	2	8
Lubomir Lapsansky	7	1	8
Goran Lozanovski	7	1	8
Nick Meredith	7	1	8
Aurelio Vidmar	7	1	8
Jason Vukadin	7	1	8
Dean Fak	8	0	8
Chris Jackson	8	0	8

CLUBS:			
Parramatta Power	71	8	79
South Melbourne	72	7	79
Sydney Olympic	71	5	76
Canberra	68	7	75
Marconi	67	6	73
Auckland Kings	63	7	70
Sydney United	62	5	67
Melbourne Knights	57	7	64
Wollongong	60	4	64
Gippsland Falcons	57	4	61
Perth Glory	55	6	61
Adelaide City	56	3	59
Brisbane Strikers	55	2	57
Northern Spirit	48	4	52
Carlton	42	4	46
Newcastle	42	3	45
TOTAL	947	82	1029

	Home	Away	Total
Yellows	426	521	947
Reds	32	50	82
Total	458	571	1029

REFEREES:	G	Y	R	Aver
Mathew Breeze	31	118	14	4.3
Simon Micallef	30	88	9	3.2
Gerry Connolly	28	63	7	2.5
Brett Hugo	27	107	10	4.3
Con Diomis	26	119	8	4.9
Eddie Lennie	27	125	7	4.9
Mark Shield	26	110	9	4.6
Jeremy Blaney	20	49	4	2.6
David Dwight	12	43	3	3.8
Perry Mur	13	18	1	1.5
Derek Rugg	7	23	6	4.1
Brian Precious	6	29	3	5.3
Wayne Dade	6	33	2	5.8
Craig Zetter	4	10	2	3.0

VSF announces season start for 2001

The Victorian Soccer Federation Commission has resolved that due to the impending restructure of the National Soccer League, incorporating the introduction of a second division for the 2001/2002 season, the Eat Well Live Well Premier League 2001 season will commence in early February 2001 for the league's twelve clubs.

The decision was made following recent discussions with clubs and the retention of the current scheduling means that the league will now not move to a full summer season. The proposed changes at national level have prompted this reversal of the previous decision to move into line with the NSL season kick off in October.

VSF Chief Executive Officer Geoff Miles said, "The introduction of a second division of the NSL, which is sure to involve a number of Victorian clubs, was the key factor in the Commission decision to continue with a February kick off. It is not the VSF's preference to compete 'head on' with an increased schedule of NSL games in Victoria and the current league season fixturing which incorporates numerous night games, has proved popular."

The 1999 and 2000 seasons have not involved a finals series, however a decision will be made regarding finals in 2001, once feedback is received from all clubs.

Miles said, "Whilst soccer is the national leader at the grass roots in junior participation numbers, and at the elite level we are seeing the increasing success of our players in the world's best leagues, we look to Soccer Australia to address some critical issues in the NSL restructure process.

"Market research and a targeted promotional strategy, a focus on facilities and the match day experience for supporters, and the introduction of a salary cap, are some of the fundamentals I believe are essential to enhance our national competition in a very competitive market.

"In Victoria, soccer's toughest market place, the fundamentals are very positive for the sport, with record growth in junior club and school participants, the success of the Goalkick program, continued strong representation of our elite juniors in national squads and the huge turn outs for internationals at the MCG in recent years.

"The hosting of seven nights and twelve games in the Olympic Football tournament in September, at the MCG, should also provide a great stimulus for the sport."

NSL TOP SCORERS

DAMIAN MORI	21
(Adelaide city Force)	
PABLO CARDOZO	18
(Sydney Olympic)	
MICHAEL CURCIJA	18
(South Melbourne)	
STUART YOUNG (WW)	17
JOHN BUONAVOGIA (NB)	16
SASO PETROVSKI (WW)	14
ZELJKO BABIC (MS)	14
CON BOUTSIANIS (PG)	13
ALISTAIR EDWARDS (PG)	13
ALEX MOREIRA (C)	13

CROWD COMPARISON:
Cumulative to Round 29
99/00: 1,323,802
98/99: 1,180,745



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	(OVERALL)							(HOME)							(AWAY)						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS	GD	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L
PERTH GLORY	33	18	7	8	59	42	61	17	11	3	2	35	18	7	4	6	24	24			
Wollongong Wolves	33	17	9	7	71	42	60	29	10	2	5	33	22	7	7	2	38	20			
Carlton	33	16	7	10	53	38	55	15	8	4	4	27	18	8	3	6	26	20			
Marconi Stallions	33	16	6	11	52	48	54	4	10	2	5	30	24	6	4	6	22	24			
Adelaide Force	33	15	8	10	54	36	53	18	10	3	3	35	17	5	5	7	19	19			
Sydney Olympic	33	15	7	11	53	40	52	13	8	5	3	33	18	7	2	8	20	22			
Newcastle Breakers	32	14	9	9	44	39	51	5	8	5	3	28	20	6	4	6	16	19			
Football Kingz	33	14	5	14	55	58	47	-3	9	3	5	32	25	5	2	9	23	33			
Brisbane Strikers	33	12	10	11	44	39	46	5	7	6	3	29	17	5	4	8	15	22			
South Melbourne	33	13	7	13	51	51	46	0	8	4	4	27	16	5	3	9	24	35			
Melbourne Knights	33	13	6	14	43	54	45	-11	9	2	6	25	19	4	4	8	18	35			
Parramatta Power	32	13	5	14	50	45	44	5	8	4	4	29	17	5	1	10	21	28			
Northern Spirit	33	11	3	19	41	57	36	-16	8	2	7	22	22	3	1	12	19	35			
Canberra Cosmos	33	9	8	16	43	63	35	-20	5	3	8	19	26	4	5	8	24	37			
Gippsland Falcons	33	7	8	18	22	47	29	-25	4	4	9	13	21	3	4	9	9	26			
Sydney United	33	5	5	23	19	55	20	-36	5	3	9	15	22	0	2	14	4	33			

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Gibson's late show robs teen spirit

NORTHERN SPIRIT 0 PARRAMATTA POWER 1

Gibson 77.

Friday night at North Sydney Oval, Sydney. Crowd: 4,512.



MATCH STATS:



Cranney.T.



Elrich (Thompson 45), Gibson, Santalab.

Yellows:

Spirit: T. Cranney (87)
Power: Vrkic (48)

Best Players:

3. THOMPSON (POWER)
2. Vrkic (Power)
1. R.Griffiths (Spirit)

Referee: Con Diomis



Spirit's wiry and very exciting Antonio Faria.

John Gibson in the six yard box who despite the awkward height, managed to bundle the ball home with a combination of chest and, it would seem, pure hope.

With both sides long since forgotten in the scramble for a top six berth, this game was never going to have the edge that comes when there is something tangible to play for, and on this evidence, the end of the season simply cannot come quickly enough for both camps.

It was a barely recognisable Spirit that took to the field. Skipper Mark Rudan was playing in his 100th NSL game but another landmark he was probably unaware of was the fact that at 24, he was easily the oldest player in the home side's line-up.

In fact one glance at the Spirit side would have you fearing that coach Graham Arnold had gone down to his local Hoyts cinema and kidnapped the entire back row watching a 'Teletubbies' movie.

Thankfully, that rumour was proved to be unfounded although no statement has been released to deny rumours that the players win bonus was an autographed Bardot album and a packet of jelly babies!

Parramatta began the most comfortable of the two sides and enjoyed a session of keep ball for the opening five minutes, though in truth there was little threat to former Joey Jess Van Stratten in the Spirit net.

It was Spirit who created the first real opening after six minutes, and it was one of Arnold's young guns that provided it. Left winger Antonio Faria, a veritable old pro at 20, snared a super ball from Robert Enes and with a single confident touch he was galloping away from Joe Vrkic.

With the lively Ryan Griffiths speeding into the box it took a smart diving claim from Andrew Crews to snuff out Faria's excellent centre.

It was clear from the outset that Faria was to be sought out at every opportunity. More of an out and out winger than the injured but usually effective Matthew Langdon, he showed glimpses of skill and a frightening turn of pace, even though his skinny frame was found wanting in the many tussles with rugged Power defenders.

Parramatta gradually became a little more direct themselves and soon created a couple of good chances. Firstly, an Ahmad Elrich cross was headed into Van Stratten's

arms by the athletic Sterjovski, and then on 15 minutes a Jacob Burns piledriver was deflected inches wide off the legs of a desperate Spirit defender.

Almost immediately a fluid move by Spirit almost provided the opener. Troy Cranney released Robert Enes down the left flank and the midfielder's accurate cross landed perfectly for Adam Snyder, but unfortunately for the young winger, his header six yards out was ill-timed and the ball finally rolled out of play off his outstretched leg.

The action though, was sterile at best. Parramatta clearly lacked the cutting edge up front whilst Spirit's injury and suspension woes had left them disjointed, disheartened and in clear need of a leader on the park.

Vrkic to his credit, looked to liven up proceedings with a wonderful 50 yard ball out of defence that gave Sterjovski a clear run at goal. Pressured by the impressive Bilokapic his angled drive only found the side netting. With 40 on the clock, Mark Rudan almost marked his 100th NSL appearance with a goal. Rising to meet an Enes corner, his majestic leap and meaty header was just too high to trouble a startled Crews in the Power goal.

Spirit enjoyed a lively opening to the second half action. A Bilokapic free kick was smothered by Crews, and Snyder fired wide when a thumping block tackle by Enes had set up an inviting three on two situation.

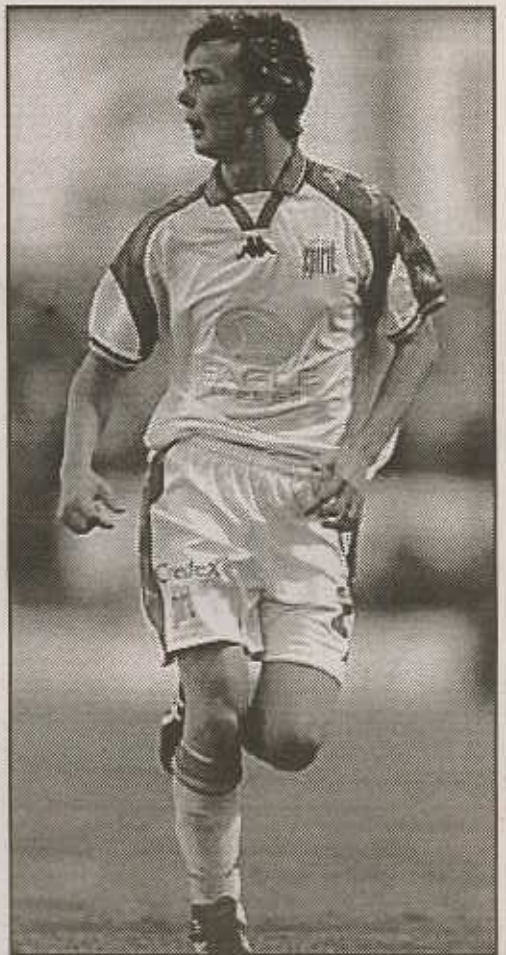
But as the second half progressed it was becoming clear that the cute, jinking, pacey style of half time sub Matt Thompson was going to a large say in the destiny of the points. The warning came on 52 minutes when a mazy dribble led to Troy Cranney heading a cross clear from virtually his own goal line.

After a series of long range and weakly hit efforts had provided fodder for the two 'keepers, Thompson's moment of quality on 77 minutes was the key that unlocked the Spirit defence, and though Gibson's bundled finish didn't score highly with the style judges, it was effective and in the final count, decisive.

Parramatta almost doubled their advantage five minutes later, and again Thompson was the inspiration. After reaching the byline his neat cut back was perfectly played into the path of fellow sub Luke Roodenborg whose first time side footer bulged the side netting with Van Stratten beaten.

"I was happy with the young boys out there" beamed an upbeat Graham Arnold after the game, carrying the air of a man relieved that the end is in sight, "our average age must have been 18 or 19 and the oldest player on the field for us was Mark Rudan and he's only 24.

"A lot of experienced players", he contin-



Ryan Griffiths: in a strong position for next year's Spirit.

ued, "Enes, Rudan, Perinich, Seal haven't had 15 appearances each and kids have had to replace them. You need a good blend so I need to replace the experience we've lost."

But what about the season, just how tough had it been for the Spirit to endure these lean times?

"I think people were possibly underestimating what we achieved last year, getting fifth place in our first season. Maybe this is the kick up the backside I and we needed, you see players get into the comfort zone, look at Mitch' (Parramatta coach Dave Mitchell), he's got the same players as he had at Sydney United last year but they don't seem as hungry when they've got it so good."

With Spirit's final home game attracting just 4,512 die hards, the memories of packed houses and Spirit mania will become a distant memory soon, and no-one needs to remind Arnold of the importance of this off season as he looks to build a side capable of challenging at the business end of the ladder next term.



Matt Thompson: the young Macarthur player showed great style on Friday night at Spirit.

By Arlo White

It was a mixture of genius and farce, but when it finally arrived in the 77th minute John Gibson's strike was enough to take the points for the visiting Power in this dreary end of season encounter at the North Sydney Oval on Friday night.

In a rare moment of pure quality on a night of lethargy, Steve Eagleton's superb angled through ball released nippy substitute Matt Thompson down the right flank.

After reaching the by line, Thompson's excellent centre picked out a totally unmarked

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Sterrey rues cruel draw for tiring Breakers

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS 1

McManus 23.

SOUTH MELBOURNE 2

Clarkson 35, Trimboli 60.

Friday night at Breakers Stadium, Newcastle. Crowd 5,709.



MATCH STATS



NEWCASTLE BREAKERS:

Catlin, Pryce (Smith 80), Roberts (Tancheski 69), McManus, Sprod, Wilson, Buonavoglia, Wieczorek, Owens (Dodd 69), Harper, Moore.



SOUTH MELBOURNE:

Jones, Iosifidis, De Amicis, Blatsis, Clarkson (Magnacca 69), Panopoulos, Coveny, Trimboli, Curcija, Lozanovski, Liparoti.

Yellows:

Breakers: Wilson 25.

South: Liparoti 14.

BEST PLAYER:

3. PAUL TRIMBOLI (SOUTHS)

2. Todd McManus (Breakers)

1. Mark Wilson (Breakers)

Referee: Simon Micallef



Todd McManus: the underrated Breaker opened the scoring.

By Michael Kmet

Newcastle crashed to their second defeat in as many matches with a loss to South Melbourne at Breakers Stadium. This has put their first ever-final appearance in doubt, as the young side will be under enormous pressure to win their remaining two games, the first being tonight (Tuesday) against Parramatta Power at Breakers stadium.

It was a loss the Breakers will rue as they had the opportunities to convincingly depose of

the Melbourne side. Squandered chances in front of goal by Newcastle and a few lucky breaks for Souths conspired against the Breakers in their aim of that top six position.

Newcastle mentor Lee Sterrey was not too upset with his team's performance, but highlighted the lack of finishing early as the cause behind the Breakers' defeat.

"We had enough chances to win it. We had two great chances early on and conservatively I thought we should have been 4-1 up at halftime. We didn't do it. At the end of the day the game is about chances and we didn't take them. I'm not disappointed in the way we played in any way, shape, or form against a side of that quality. We know their quality. You look at their starting side and it reads the who's who of Australian soccer."

The Breakers hit South Melbourne hard from the first whistle and slowed down as the match progressed. Newcastle exploited Souths' lack of pace at the back and the pace of John Buonavoglia, Andy Harper, Andy Roberts, and especially Brad Wieczorek, really found Con Blatsis and Robert Liparoti wanting in defence.

It was as early as the 2nd minute that Newcastle carved out an opportunity. A lovely through ball by Mark Wilson found the feet of Harper. With keeper Chris Jones committed on the ground Harper drilled the ball into the Souths' custodian, when perhaps he could have chipped Jones.

In the 14th minute it was Buonavoglia who put a tough ball for Andy Roberts in a very similar situation. Again the Breakers couldn't score as Roberts fired into Jones. The ensuing rebound fell to Buonavoglia who couldn't volley the ball home.

Success finally came to Newcastle in the 23rd minute. Olyroo Blatsis fouled Wieczorek on the right of the box. The curling free kick by Glenn Sprod was missed by Jones who over judged the ball. The cross fell to Glenn Moore who miss kicked into the path of Todd McManus. McManus had a relatively easy tap in to put the home team in front.

A minute later Newcastle nearly went a goal further ahead when Buonavoglia pounced on Blatsis' lack of pace. "Jockey" got to the ball first and crossed to Glenn Sprod waiting on the edge of the box. Sprod's shot went just wide.

Souths equalised the 35th minute from an innocuous situation. A skidding ball and defensive rebound fell straight to the feet of David Clarkson. Clarkson miraculously volleyed the ball from 25 yards leaving keeper Bob Catlin no chance.

In the 40th minute the Breakers had a penalty decision denied when Buonavoglia appeared to be fouled in the box. Referee Simon Micallef waved the appeals away. Lee Sterrey later stated that Buonavoglia is a very small player and that it would not take much for the pocket dynamo to go down.

As has been the case in most Breakers' games this season they made a great opportunity on the stroke of half time. A cross from youngster Greg Owen located Buonavoglia free just outside the six-yard box. Buonavoglia could not keep the great delivery down and headed over the crossbar.

The second half could not reproduce the first half's action and chances were few and far between. It took thirteen minutes for the Breakers to put Souths on the back foot again. Buonavoglia put a through ball to Harper, however Harper weakly shot to Jones.

One hour had passed and South



Paul Trimboli: a hint of handball but nevertheless the great man had a wonderful game.

Melbourne found themselves in the lead. A defensive error by Moore, who has been so solid all year, led to Trimboli's winner, and his 100th goal in the NSL. Moore cleared the ball straight to the chest of Trimboli.

The Soccerroo, and television replays clearly showed, controlled the ball with his hand. Bringing the ball down, Trimboli passed to Michael Curcija. Curcija's shot was well blocked by Catlin, however the rebound fell straight back to Trimboli who calmly slotted the ball home.

The Breakers pressed for an equaliser in the remaining time, but to no avail. Their best chance fell to substitute Chris Tancheski who fed from a ball by Harper, easily rounded Blatsis, and sot the ball over from just outside the box.

Souths coach Ange Postecoglou believed that his club still had plenty to play for. "We were out there to win. We didn't want to go through the motions during this next few weeks. We had some important games against teams

making the top six and I don't think they would be too happy if we didn't give 100%. It's not the type of club that you go through the motions and write off the season. I'm not the type of coach to send players out there to enjoy themselves and not worry about results.

Sterrey is still fuming about the competition draw in which they have to play South Melbourne and Adelaide City in away games that are probably the hardest in the competition.

"It's funny how we've scored four points out of a possible twelve against Adelaide City, and one point out of a possible nine out of South Melbourne.

"It must have been Stevie Wonder with binoculars who drew this competition in the first place. You take the equation out where everyone plays each other four times and I know we are on 46 points. We'd be minor premiers just about."



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Brisbane strikes out as Kingz hit winning homer

FOOTBALL KINGZ 2

Silva 23, 55.

BRISBANE STRIKERS 1

Grierson 63.

Saturday night at North Harbour Stadium, Gosford. Crowd 4, .



MATCH STATS



FOOTBALL

KINGZ: Duke; Bunce, Moya (Rufer, 74), Van Steeden; Suri (Hickey, 45), Ngata, Vicelich, Jones, Kenyon; de Jong, Silva (Lammers, 57).



BRISBANE

STRIKERS: Bolton; McKain, Bell (Webber, 80), Gwynne, Stefanutto; North, Srhoj, Grierson, Dwyer (Pilic, 70); Miner, Foster (Hews, 60).

Yellows: Nil

Best Players:

3. F. DE JONG (KINGZ)
2. W. Srhoj (Brisbane)
1. L. Jones (Kingz)

Referee: Perry Mur.



Lee Jones: was strong at the back for Kingz.

By Jeremy Ruane

The National Soccer League play-off hopes of the Brisbane Strikers were confined to the files of what might have been at North Harbour Stadium on April 29, as the Football Kingz delighted 5,628 fans by finishing their final home game of the season on a winning note, 2-1 the final score.

The home team began brightly, buoyed on by the NSL's most vocal supporters, who had come to 'Camelot' with one objective in mind - to cheer "Wynton Rufer's Black And Grey Army" on to victory for the last time on home turf this season.

They were greatly enthused by what they witnessed in the fourth minute, Lee Jones and Fred de Jong, in what may well have been his last hurrah in competitive soccer, working a

super one-two to open Brisbane up. Sadly for the Kingz, Jones' unselfish decision to square de Jong's brilliant back-heeled return to the back-from-suspension Aaron Silva failed to come off.

De Jong was displaying touches of class aplenty, and was often to be seen doing his fair share of defensive duties, as Brisbane continually prised open the Kingz defence down either flank in the first spell, a situation often seen when a 3-5-2 formation comes up against a 4-4-2 strategy.

Peter Dwyer and Shane Stefanutto, on Brisbane's left, and Jade North, on the right, were relishing the opportunities afforded them by the impressive Wayne Srhoj to get in behind the Kingz defence and cause merry hell with their crosses.

But the home team's defence, ably marshalled by the newly hair-dyed Che Bunce, succeeded in scrambling the ball clear on any number of occasions, sometimes by good management, sheer good fortune at other times.

Daniel Duke was also doing his bit to keep his former team-mates at bay.

Dwyer, Srhoj and Peter Grierson all found the goalkeeper in 'Thou Shalt Not Pass' mood before the conclusion of the opening half-hour, while Paul Foster and Matthew Bell failed to make the most of golden opportunities to put Brisbane on the board before half-time, the latter in particular squandering a glorious chance to reward the visitors' industry.

The scoreboard did tick over once before the interval, however, much to the home crowd's undisguised delight. Chilean striker Silva has fast become a crowd favourite with the Kingz followers, and the script wouldn't have been complete without him finding the target in this fixture.

He duly did so, in the 23rd minute, turning to pounce on Brisbane's failure to clear a Harry Ngata free-kick and calmly roll the ball past the stranded figure of Clint Bolton and in by the goalkeeper's right-hand post.

The mop-topped marksman came close again before the break, his thirty yard lob of the advancing Bolton drifting wide of the target after countryman David Moya's raking pass out of defence had sent the striker scurrying through a Brisbane rearguard somewhat bereft of numbers three minutes before the interval.

Three minutes after it, the Kingz were denied a second goal by the woodwork. The hard-working Jones intercepted a Bell pass, and released Ngata through the middle. The Kingz captain, on his fiftieth NSL appearance, quickly latched onto the ball, sized up his options, and lobbed the advancing Bolton, only to see the ball rebound to safety off the top of the crossbar - it was desperately close.

The match was beginning to take on exhibition proportions, as play swung from one end of the pitch to the other. Srhoj and Grierson again tested Duke's athleticism from distance, while after beating Stefanutto all ends up on receipt of a pass from Silva, half-time substitute Noah Hickey - his introduction saw the Kingz adopt their own 4-4-2 strategy - sent in a super cross from the right which no-one from the home team was on hand to convert.

Another Brisbane raid saw a corner forced in the 55th minute, but this was cleared to the edge of the Kingz penalty area, where Ngata was on hand to turn defence into smart counter-attack. Ivan Vicelich - surely the Kingz player of the season - appeared on his left in support, and was duly afforded possession.

Looking up, Vicelich spotted Silva starting



Fred de Jong: his visit to Parramatta this Sunday could be his swansong.

a darting run forward, and threaded a splendid pass through the Brisbane defence to the striker, who appeared to be marginally offside when the ball was played. On he scampered, before planting a twenty-yard drive past Bolton to double the Kingz advantage.

His reward for this was to be replaced within two minutes by John Lammers, thus sacrificing the key element of pace in the Kingz frontline. To say the logic behind some of the selections made by the Rufer brothers throughout the season has raised the eyebrows at least once or twice is an understatement!

It encouraged Brisbane to pour forth in search of some reward, and after Duke had thwarted Russell Miner with his legs, they gained it through Dwyer.

Chay Hews, Srhoj and Grierson made the most of the space afforded them by the static Kingz rearguard to create the chance, and Duke was helpless to prevent Dwyer from pulling a goal back for the visitors in the 65th minute.

This was all Brisbane needed to up the tempo. Hews twice went close, North also, while Duke produced a splendid double-save to frustrate Srhoj, then Miner, before later denying Srhoj once more.

The Kingz 'keeper wasn't the only custodian being kept busy, however. Bolton had to be wary of Lammers' looping header in the 64th minute, while a buccaneering run from Ngata - he careered past four opponents on this occasion - saw the Brisbane shot-stopper tip his effort over the crossbar, only for referee Perry Mur to give a goal-kick when, from another angle, it looked a certain corner.

In the dying minutes, Bolton twice saved from Lammers, on the second occasion when the striker was one-on-one with the 'keeper, having been put through by the inspirational de Jong, who had combined with Vicelich and Ngata - this superbly - to craft the chance from nought with sixty seconds' running time on the clock.

But not on the referee's watch, as Brisbane still had a chance to level things before the final whistle sounded on the Football Kingz home season, through Glen Gwynne. His cross picked

out Grierson on the far post, and his header whizzed wide of the far post.

It was Brisbane's last chance, for the sound of the final whistle signalled the end of their play-off hopes, and party time for the players and fans of the Football Kingz, their inaugural season over, on home turf at least.

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De Jesus and Clark continue scoring spree



GIPPSLAND FALCONS 0

CANBERRA COSMOS 2

De Jesus 44, Clark 56.

Saturday night at Mobil Park, Morwell. Crowd: 1,688.

MATCH STATS:



GIPPSLAND FALCONS:

Jevdjovic - Fak - Buhargiar - Savage - Marcina - Puca (Katz 62 min) - Hutchinson (sent off 89 min) - Vargas .A. - Bell - Nilo - MacNicol (Mandic 40 min) Sub not used: Robertson.



CANBERRA COSMOS:

Konstantinou. - Popovich - Purdue - Polak - Castro - Arranz (Roberts 80 min) - Hamilton - Prenzoski - Hooker - Clark - DeJesus (Musitano 70 min).

Yellows:

Falcons: Bell 48, Jevdjovic 71.
Cosmos: Clark 45, Polak 71.

Red Cards:

Falcons: Hutchinson 89.

Best Players:

3. HAMILTON (COSMOS)
2. Hooker (Cosmos)
1. Hutchinson (Falcons)

Referee: Brian Zetter



Robbie Hooker: one of Canberra's better performers.

By Lucio Viggiano

The standard of play at Mobil Park on Saturday night reflected the lowly positions of the two sides on display. In a match that never reached any great heights, Canberra managed to maintain their shape, discipline and composure to walk away with three easy points and leave Falcons rooted to second last place on the table.

Two disallowed goals, the inability to create any fluent moves and an apparent lack of desire, summed up the Falcons effort in their second last game of the season.

Clearly missing the leadership and organisational skills of their captain Mehmed Durakovic, the Falcons looked scrappy at best.

Canberra on the other hand with two consecutive wins under their belts, looked little better than the Falcons in general play, but their desire for victory was clearly more evident.

The match started with neither side able to put together any telling moves and plays confined to the midfield. Robbie Hooker for the Cosmos was dominating everything the Falcons sent forward and the equally experienced Jason Polak was busy in midfield linking well with the Cosmos striking duo of Castro and DeJesus.

The first real attempt at goal by either side came in the 32 minute when a long-range speculative effort by John Hutchinson was comfortably watch past the upright by Cosmos keeper Konstantinou.

A heavy collision between Falcons teammates Marcina and MacNicol in the 35 minute resulted in a long delay in play with MacNicol taking no further part in the match.

At the restart of play the Cosmos caught the Falcons napping with good play by Brian Hamilton in midfield finding David Arranz on the left. A speculative ball by Arranz to the by-line found Alex Castro

who lobbed a cross into the penalty area.

With Jevdjovic in the Falcons goal star gazing at a cross he should have intercepted, Ivo DeJesus ghosted in to easily put the ball into the net unchallenged for a 1-0 lead to Canberra.

The second half started more promising than the first with an early chance after a good run and shot by Juan Nilo in the 49 minute for the Falcons was forced away for a corner.

The resulting corner for the Falcons was well met by Hutchinson with a strong header, a goal mouth scramble saw Buhargiar put the ball into the back of the net, only to be disallowed for offside.

The Cosmos finished the game off in the 56 minute with a goal that seemed to present itself on a plate.

Good play yet again by Brian Hamilton in midfield for the Cosmos saw him combine well with the hard running Andrew Clark. Clark must have thought it was a training drill as he seemingly strolled through the Falcons defence unchallenged, hitting a well placed shot into the net from just inside the penalty area to give the final 2-0 scoreline.

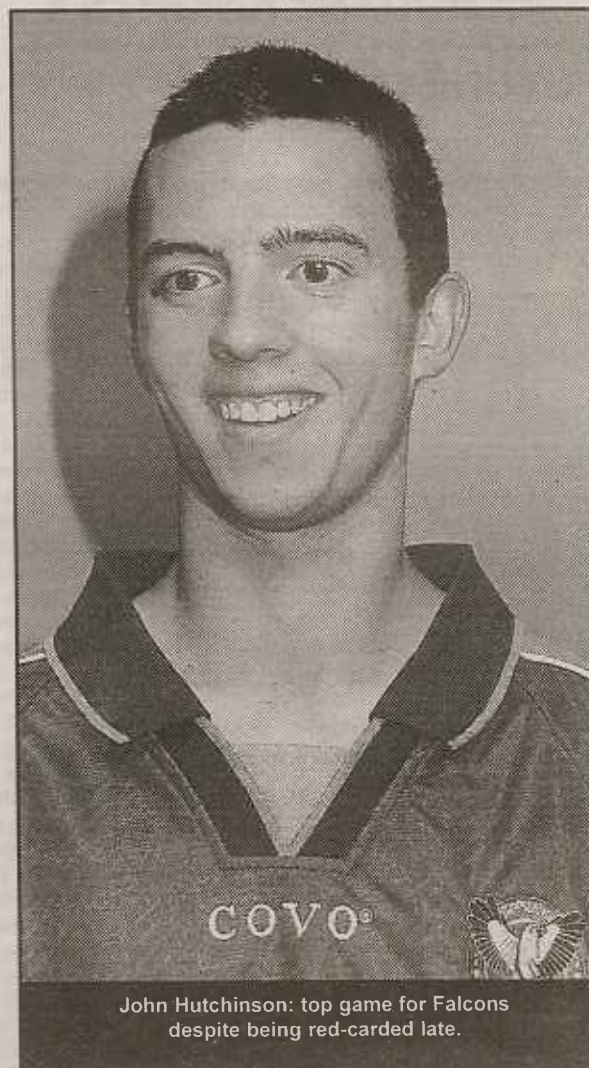
Canberra continued to come forward after their second goal with good long-range efforts by Polak and Hamilton testing Jevdjovic in the Falcons goal.

At the other end good running from midfield by Nilo drew a free kick just outside the penalty area for the Falcons.

A well hit shot by Vargas just missing the upright and then in the 90 minute a powerful long range drive by Igor Mandic was well held by Konstantinou in the Cosmos goal.

The game ended with Falcons best player on the night John Hutchinson being sent off in frustration for a rash challenge on Popovich.

The best player on the night was Brian Hamilton in midfield for the Cosmos. The experienced journeyman was instrumental in both



John Hutchinson: top game for Falcons despite being red-carded late.

goals and dominated the midfield with Jason Polak.

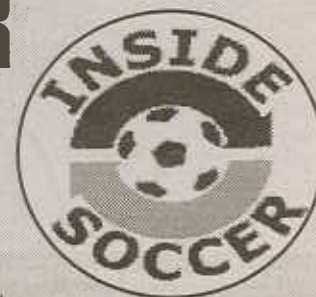
Robbie Hooker in defence for Canberra re-bounded every effort by the Falcons to go forward. His experience was a telling factor in the Falcons having no clear-cut chances on the night. John Hutchinson was the only Falcons player that was a winner on the night. His midfield play and hard running spoilt in the end by a rash challenge borne through frustration.

Overall, it was a game that most at Mobil Park would rather forget.



Ivo de Jesus: IDJ scored again for the Cosmos.

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Hot Knights show no mercy to United

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 4

Rados 10, Cervinski 40, Kovacevic 56, Urlovic 57.

SYDNEY UNITED 1

Genc 62.



Sunday afternoon at Knights Stadium, Melbourne. Crowd 2,103.

MATCH STATS:



MELBOURNE KNIGHTS:

Acevski, Rados, Kovacevic, Vargas, Vukadin, Nastevski (Rajher 69"), Kiratzoglou (Pelikan 60), Zold, Susa, Cervinski (Matkovic 60), Urlovic.



SYDNEY UNITED:

Hughes, Kupresak, Bosnar, Arrarte, Palapanis, Genc (Deur 70), Maric, Moric, Rastall (Bozinovski 45), Bosevski (Pellegrino 57),

Pondeljask.

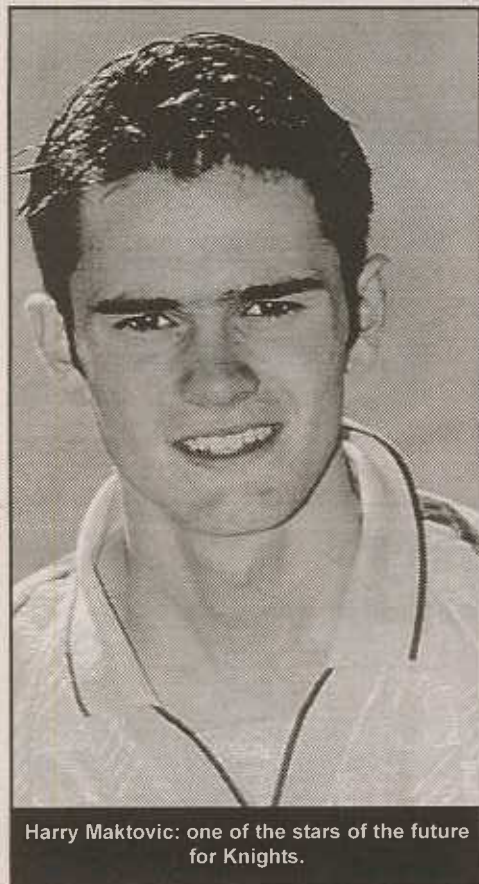
Yellows:

Knights: Cervinski 46

Best Players:

3. CERVINSKI (KNIGHTS)
2. Vargas (Knights)
1. Genc (Pumas)

Referee: Brett Hugo



Harry Matkovic: one of the stars of the future for Knights.

By Mark Fisher

The Knights' last home game of season 1999/2000 was a game of mishaps as much as it was laden with goals. Three goals from deflections characterised what was a shaky display from the defences of both, with only Rody Vargas, for the umpteenth time this season, shining with a vice-like shackling job on the opposition's front men.

Adrian Cervinski has definitely become the home-town hero over the past month at Somers Street, scoring freely and setting up still more goals. The Knights would do well to sign him for next season immediately, for he looks completely composed in either a striking or attacking midfield position. Having shed a few kilos under Vlado Vanis' rigorous training regime has certainly done his form no harm.

Another player very likely to join him in attack next season is the heralded young gun Anthony Pelikan, a tall sharpshooter who a season ago was honing his skills with the much-lauded Carlton Academy squad.

Pelikan led the National Youth League, Southern Division goalscoring list until he was drafted into the Knights' first fourteen one month ago. Understandably, Vanis indicated that he was one of the players the Knights were very keen to keep.

With many contracts still up in the air at both clubs, the game on Sunday presented another opportunity for fringe players to impress. For the Pumas it was attacker Fernando Pellegrino awaiting his chance from off the bench, whereas for the Knights speedster Hrvoje Matkovic looked hungry when given his chance.

So the game shaped up as a trial of sorts. The Knights took control from the opening whistle. The ever-alert Dragi Nastevski worked the right flank beautifully throughout the first half, sending a well-timed cross from near the corner post towards Cervinski running through the centre, but it was close enough for the keeper in Brett Hughes to reel in safely.

In the very next attacking play Nastevski again delivered to Cervinski inch-perfect in the centre, just short of the penalty spot, and after controlling the ball with his left foot he blasted around his marker in Kupresak only for his shot to rebound low off the left post.

A poor Zoltan Zold back pass saw Nick Bosevski take the pickings and offload forward to the running Ante Moric in front of the box. The Sydney United mainstay cracked the ball just wide of the left post, forcing Lupce Acevski to get airborne in a good attempt to cover the right side of his net.

The game was flowing enough to suggest an early goal was in the offing. When Moric and Cervinski tangled up in a challenge just in front of the area for the Knights, Moric's left hand came into contact with the contested ball, earning the Knights a lucky free kick.

Slavko Rados was the unlikely candidate to take the shot, but he didn't let any of his fans or team-mates down. What he delivered off the boot was simply dazzling - a 20 metre shot to the right of a poorly constructed 9-man Sydney United wall - a real tracer bullet that zipped into the high left section of the net.

Hughes hardly had a chance to see the shot, let alone save it. The Knights had the lead ten minutes into the match.

The Pumas came back into the game with a number of half-chances from that moment, causing some hasty back-tracking on the part of the Knights midfield.

With Vukadin, Vargas and Rados all playing at the back, Ante Kovacevic was afforded the odd opportunity to press forward more regularly than usual, but he did little of that whilst Pondeljask, Bosevski and Genc linked up nicely on the counter. United's efforts weren't helped by some less than borderline calls by the linesman on the grandstand side of the pitch.

The Knights gradually reclaimed dominance in the game, and had something further to show for it in the 40th minute.

The Knights were sending in cross after cross until Kiratzoglou layed off horizontally to Urlovic and Cervinski virtually side-by-side on the left half of the area. Cervinski got his boot to the pill first, and collected his team-mate's leg before the ball sailed low and into the left side of the net with Hughes again well beaten. The score stayed at 2-0 until the break.

It took until eleven minutes into the second half for the game to go from fast to frantic. This all started when Kovacevic found space inside the right edge of the area, and he tucked a ball seemingly intended for Cervinski at the far post. The ball instead rolled off the left leg of Velimir Kupresak just forward of the line, and over for a goal, again leaving the goalkeeper flabbergasted.

The very next minute All White representative Paul Urlovic, who is finding goalscoring a



Vlado Vanis: impressive way to end the home games at Knights Park.

much easier affair during the second half of the season, burst through the centre and to the edge of the area, with both Eddie Bosnar and Terry Palapanis in tow.

In what could only be described as pure calamity for the Pumas, Hughes raced off his line to try to meet Urlovic before he could fire his shot off. Hughes instead ended up colliding with Palapanis, allowing Urlovic to somehow squeeze his shot over the unintended 'stacks on the mill' in front of him.

Eddie Bosnar took a swipe at the ball in a vain effort to clear, but it still carried forward after knocking his boot, and needless to say the ball went into the open goal to put the Knights well beyond reach in the match.

With one third of the game remaining, defences on both sides began to tire appreciably, and in one clear example of such - a poor attempted pass on the backline from Kovacevic in the direction of Jason Vukadin - a goal had to come for the visitors.

Aytec Genc intercepted the ball, followed by a one-on-one confrontation with Acevski. Genc won that battle, calmly shooting high past the on-rushing goalkeeper and deep into left side of the net. With a goal pulled back for the Pumas the score was now 4-1.

Hrvoje Matkovic added some late game spring in the steps of the Knights, but with the win already in the bag, it mattered little if they couldn't find the back of the net for the remainder of the match. A solid win to the home side, giving Vanis some time to check out the emerging brigade.

For Sydney United however, the fall from last season's minor premiership pinnacle has been a massive one, and the feeling of having earned the wooden spoon for the first time in their NSL history will not sit well with the Edensor Park faithful over the off-season.

Some personnel changes are imminent at both camps. Whilst Vlado Vanis lamented the fact that he didn't push for two more key signings when he took over from Joe Biskic, he now admits that the axe will be wielded.

He claimed that to date only seven of the current squad have re-signed with the Knights. It is expected that the next month will be a busy time at Somers Street in terms of player acquisitions, with Vanis indicating that the Victorian Premier League may yet yield more additions to those already committed to returning next year.

Vanis also revealed that the biggest impediment to signing more of the existing squad was due to the rise in player wages sweeping the league, and the coach admitted that even his own personal terms still remained under discussion with the Knights board.

Pumas coach Ivan Petkovic was also uncertain of his own future at Sydney United. As for next season's crop of players, he believed only seven of the existing squad was likely to be re-signed! As for the remainder, he believed the club might (ironically) be looking to poach from others in the NSL as well as look overseas for perhaps two or three key signings.

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Glory on the cusp of history after Wolves win

WOLLONGONG WOLVES 0 PERTH GLORY 1

Harnwell 50.

Sunday night at Brandon Park, Wollongong. Crowd: 8,851.



MATCH STATS:



WOLLONGONG

WOLVES: Pogliacomi, Ceccoli, Stanton, Cervinski, Horsley, Reid, Young, Chipperfield, Spencer

(Huxley 89), Robertson (Souris 78), Mennillo (Masi 78).



PERTH GLORY:

Petkovic, Trajkovski, Miller (Carbone 92), Milicevic, Harnwell, Valle, Junior, Naven, Wehrman (Afkos 84), Edwards, Schwartz (Buljan 73).

Yellows:

Perth: Valle 57.

Best Players:

3. HARNWELL (PERTH)
2. Cervinski (Wollongong)
1. Valle (Perth)

Referee: Gerry Connolly

By Stephen Webb

An impressively solid defensive performance against the league's leading strike force all but secured the minor premiership for Perth Glory last Sunday evening.

With a relatively easy game against Northern Spirit next weekend, Perth must be favoured to hold the top position.

During an entertaining display of end-to-end football, Jamie Hamwell's well-taken 50th minute goal and resolute defence from Hamwell, Ljubo Milicevic and Dion Valle was what Perth needed to leapfrog the erstwhile league-leaders.

The Illawarra side, for their part, continued a trend of failing against decent opposition and of being goal-shy at home.

Both coaches, Wollongong's Nick Theodorakopoulos and Perth's Bernd Stange, praised the quality of the game, the officials and the crowd. And they both anticipated still better performances when the two teams meet again in home and away legs of the major semi-final.

The action was fast from the outset. One minute Wolves' captain Matt Horsley was heading clear a Robert Trajkovski free kick, and the next minute a David Cervinski header from a Dino Mennillo free kick was whizzing past Perth's right upright.

Alistair Edwards was soon cutting into Wolves' penalty area from the right and shooting at a fine angle for Les Pogliacomi to save at the near post.

An Alvin Ceccoli-Scott Chipperfield-Dino Mennillo combination down Wollongong's left saw a cross coming in to Stuart Young whose header forced a corner.

Moments later a Ceccoli pass saw another Young header calling a save from Jason Petkovic.

An effort from Kasey Wehrman moving into the Wollongong penalty area was deflected by Mark Robertson for a corner.

Another Ceccoli-Mennillo-Young combi-

nation saw the Wollongong striker brought down and winning a free kick on the edge of the Glory penalty area. Ceccoli's strike took a deflection onto Perth's crossbar.

A Mennillo cross to Robertson was struck wildly over the crossbar, a Perth break courtesy of Trajkovski and Wehrman was ended by a Ceccoli tackle, but Perth soon gave Pogliacomi the opportunity to make a fine diving save.

Stanton and Young sent Horsley away, but their skipper tripped up - something he must have picked up from Chipperfield who saw several chances disappear after he'd up-ended himself.

Ceccoli and Mennillo set up a chance for Reid which was headed over the bar by Harnwell who also headed clear Mennillo's corner.

In the 27th minute Wehrman passed to Valle who shot just wide of goal.

While Wollongong had more of the attacking play, Glory's possession was notable for its fast, two-touch passing and the visitors made a greater percentage of their forward movements result in shots.

(Rough stats for the game were: Wollongong nine corners, nine shots on target and eight shots wide; and Perth five corners, six shots on target and nine shots wide.)

Valle had been safe in defence and sometimes flamboyant breaking through midfield. Gareth Naven was always hard-working and Scott Miller's pace was effective on several occasions as he ran down Horsley and Chipperfield.

In the 32nd minute Robertson and Young worked well together to win a corner. Mennillo crossed in from the clearance and Cervinski headed into the goal box where Valle stopped the ball dead for Petkovic to collect.

With 35 minutes gone Reid and Horsley combined to help move Wolves quickly from defence. Perth conceded a corner from a Mennillo cross and, after a goal mouth scramble, Young whipped a cross from the goal line onto Horsley's head right in front of goal.

This was Wollongong's best chance but Horsley's reflexes couldn't oblige and the ball flew over the crossbar.

In the 42nd minute Chipperfield took advantage of an error that set him free into Perth's penalty area. But with no support and at too great an angle to strike he lost possession cutting in. The ball came out to Reid whose shot was blocked.

As half-time neared Pogliacomi caught a soft Perth free kick.

The second half was made less of a spectacle after five minutes when Harnwell was given too much room and headed a goal from a Perth corner.

Wollongong still pushed forward but Perth were able to tighten up even more.

From a Mennillo cross Young won a corner and from a Young cross Robertson headed wide to the right of goal.

In the 60th minute Chipperfield made a sharp turn in Glory's penalty area, took the ball to the line and crossed - too close to goal to be of use to his team mates but not close enough to worry Petkovic.

Two minutes later, though, and Petkovic was bothered by a Wollongong free kick. He tipped the ball over the bar for a corner. This resulted in another goal mouth scramble where no Wollongong player could hit an effective shot.

Edgar Junior ended a long, threatening

Horsley run and, in the 65th minute, Chipperfield broke into the box between two defenders but failed in his attempt to lob Petkovic.

Noel Spencer had a wild slog at goal for Wollongong, Trajkovski had a better effort just wide of Wolves' goal, and David Cervinski hit a high shot that Petkovic had to leap to save.

Minutes later Cervinski - whose head was busy in attack and defence for Wollongong all night - was heading clear a Glory cross.

And then another Cervinski high ball across goal was fumbled by Petkovic and Perth conceded a corner getting out of danger.

Peter Buljan, who came on for Aurelio Schwartz midway through the second period, made a good tackle on Mennillo when Wollongong looked to be breaking free down the left, Ceccoli demonstrated how cool he could be playing out of danger in Wolves' left corner, and, in the 79th minute, Buljan shot from the right side of Wolves' penalty area, sending Pogliacomi diving to his right.

In the 81st minute, after Wollongong made several attempts to lay on a shot, Horsley succeeded and Esala Masi's strike was deflected over the bar.

Spencer, falling in front of goal, volleyed a shot over. Young was fouled just outside Perth's area and Ceccoli's shot was deflected just wide.

A Cervinski mistake in midfield gave Junior a chance to take a soft shot to Pogliacomi, Valle blocked a threatening cross from Young, and George Souris ended a dangerous move by Naven.

Wollongong were persistent but Perth held firm.

A disappointed Theodorakopoulos nevertheless said his team's general play was excellent.

He said he tried to trick his opposite number by playing an extra midfielder instead of three up front. He thought he had some success with the ploy, but still didn't win.

The victorious Stange said the Wollongong coach should keep smiling because of the team's great effort through the season. "That's more important than one game ... What you did was excellent and you should be relaxed and happy."

He said Perth might have been a little bit lucky but it was made easier for them because so many of Wollongong's balls came through the middle: "Long balls, high balls, through the middle and there were our tall defenders - 1.92 metres, 1.96 metres - and there is no chance."

Theodorakopoulos differed, saying he thought his players got in behind, especially down the flanks. However he praised Perth's central defenders.

Stange said, "We played well in the first half, we kept possession and we scored a wonderful goal - amazing header - and then in the second half we lost the way to play."

He said Perth missed key players, some crucial to Perth's attacking play: Bobby Despotovski, Troy Halpin and Ivan Ergic. When they returned for the finals Perth would improve, he said.

Stange said, with the win against Wollongong and a home game next week, Perth could win the minor premiership. "That's another big success in Australian soccer. A club who is four years old. A club without any base, without youth teams, without a reserve team is on top. That's good. That's a new fresh wind in Australian soccer."



"That's a new fresh wind in Australian soccer," Bernd Stange on the new power in the NSL.

He said that's why he was happy that Perth Glory and Wollongong had shown some established clubs what they could do.

Stange, in the European tradition, put most value on the minor premiership. Upon winning that he would open the bottle of champagne, he said. But then Perth would go on to try to win the competition the Australian way, in the finals series.

The Glory coach said Perth and Wollongong should try to improve their performances for the finals and show fantastic games. Theodorakopoulos said if the night's game was anything to go on the finals would certainly be quality football.

He said the chances were against Wollongong picking up the minor premiership but there was still a game to go and "funnier things have happened".



The Australian Fans' Perspective



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Carlton almost there but Olympic looks down barrel



SYDNEY OLYMPIC 0

CARLTON 2

Thompson 69, Moreira 73.

Sunday night at Belmore Sports Ground, Sydney. Crowd: 3,198.

MATCH STATS:



SYDNEY
Perosh,
Zoricich,
Arambasic (Duric 76),
Cardozo, Emerton,
Sinozic, Mendez, Kohler
(Tome 76), Zorbas (Carle 68).



CARLTON: Anastasiadis,
McPherson, Deans,
Colosimo, Marth,
Atkinson, Moreira
(Markovski 89),
Thompson (Conroy 87),
Terminello, Packer, Horvat (Douglas 45).

Yellow cards

Carlton: Markovski 95+

Best players:

3. COLOSIMO (CARLTON)
2. Moreira (Carlton)
1. Anastasiadis (Carlton).

Referee: Matthew Breeze.



Moreira: back in touch upfront for Blues

By Ben Cubby

Carlton gave Sydney Olympic the Blues on Sunday night at Belmore, dealing a savage blow to the home side's top six aspirations with a deserved 2-0 win.

Speedster Archie Thompson and irrepressible Brazilian Alex Moreira did the damage with a couple of well-taken second half strikes.

Carlton 'keeper Dean Anastasiadis rubbed salt into the wound with a fine penalty save from Pablo Cardozo a minute before the final whistle.

The result virtually assures Carlton of a finals position, although coach Stuart Munro was quick to point out that "if we get beaten next week we might lose out on goal difference - it's not over yet."

Olympic no longer hold their end-of-season fate in their own hands. They can only hope that seventh-placed Newcastle fail to win

tonight's vital catch-up game against the Power, before throwing everything into the Round 34 cross-town derby with Sydney United. (John/Aidan - I don't have a draw available, please check this).

Judging by this display, Olympic won't last long in the cauldron of finals football anyway. Apart from brief spells on either side of the half-time break, Carlton dominated all facets of the match with a polished aplomb that bodes well for the Melbourne club's title chances.

Alex Moreira led the charge for Carlton early on. The solidly built striker has added a healthy work-rate to his undoubted finishing skills, and Olympic never really came to grips with his razor-sharp passes and well-timed runs.

The Brazilian created and then missed the first real chance of the game in the 4th minute. After playing a slick one-two with Thompson, Moreira swivelled past Peter Tsekenis and dragged a shot from close range across the face of goal.

Olympic saw a fair bit of the ball in the opening stages, but the closest they came to the visitor's goal was a series of quickly-cleared corners taken by Gabriel Mendez.

Simon Colosimo continued his impressive journey down the comeback trail in this match. Nominally a right fullback, he popped up to add width to the midfield on both flanks, and on this showing he should walk back into the Olyroos side in time for Sydney 2000.

A well-worked move in the 16th minute culminated in a pinpoint Colosimo cross from the left. Moreira, waiting at the far post, met it sweetly with a first time volley that rattled the crossbar.

Tenacious play from Mendez, Arambasic and Emerton gradually dragged the 'home Blues' back into contention. The match began to develop into an absorbing contest as both sides traded punches without yet delivering a knockout blow.

A fabulous run by Mendez in the 20th minute left three Carlton players standing, and led to a handball offence by Dave McPherson on the edge of the 18-yard box. The midfielder curled his free kick over the wall and straight into the ready gloves of Anastasiadis.

Emerton then wasted a gilt-edged chance, firing high over the bar after a swiftly-taken free kick found him unmarked at the near post. The same player got one on target a few minutes later, but found the agile Anastasiadis equal to his dipping effort.

Moreira was in the thick of things again in the 32nd, shrugging off Tsekenis to reach Atkinson's accurate cross from the left. His stinging volley from 15-yards beat John Perosh, but again rattled against the crossbar.

The high standard of crossing was a feature the first half. Cardozo whipped in an excellent ball for Paul Kohler in the 38th, and Anastasiadis did well to block a venomous header from the former Australian schoolboy international.

Emerton carved up the Carlton ranks with a direct run at goal just before half time, but his final shot sailed inches over the bar.

The momentum that Olympic had built up towards the end of the first period to some extent carried over into the second. Mendez and Cardozo were full of feints and darting runs, although the well-manned, no-nonsense Carlton defence stood firm and weathered the storm.

When Olympic did manage to force their way through, they found Dean Anastasiadis in commanding form. The ex-South Melbourne man produced a fingertip save to deny Arambasic in the 50th minute and dived full length to thwart Cardozo shortly afterwards.

Olympic funneled most of their attacking moves down the centre of the pitch, a tactic that made little headway against the likes of McPherson, Craig Deans and Andrew Marth. Coach Branko Culina brought on Nick Carle in the 69th minute to rectify the problem by giving the team more width down the left.

Seconds later, however, Carlton scored and the home side were firmly on the back foot again.

A sudden break by the visitors saw Colosimo find space down the left. He sent a powerful, raking cross into the path of Archie Thompson, who nearly overran the ball before recovering and scooping a shot over Perosh and into the net.

Four minutes later, Moreira beat the Olympic offside trap by the narrowest of margins to clinch the victory with a well-deserved goal.

Colosimo was again the provider, unleashing Moreira with a perfectly-weighted through ball. While the Olympic defenders stared in disbelief at the linesman's motionless flag, the striker sprinted forty yards to round the 'keeper and tap home.

Carlton sat back for the remainder of the game. Olympic attacked with a mounting sense of urgency, but much time was wasted as they continually tried to dribble through the middle of a packed defence.

Carle's penetrating run down the left in the 86th minute looked more than a little promising until he was crudely checked by Carlton's Sean Douglas.

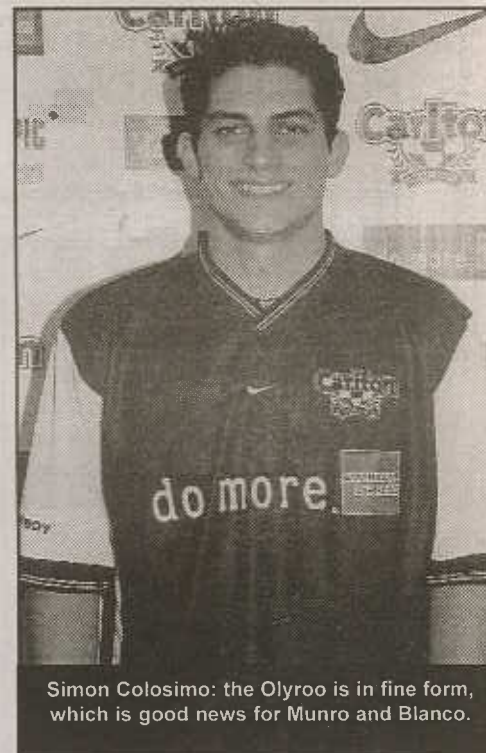
The resulting penalty was well parried by Anastasiadis, although Cardozo's shot - about four feet to the 'keeper's right and 1 foot above the ground - was hardly well placed.

The absence of key players Lubo Lapsansky and Stuart Slater made Carlton's win all the more impressive.

It was a performance characterised by composure and opportunism.

Colosimo, Moreira, Thompson and David Terminello stood out in an impressive all-round team effort.

Dean Anastasiadis was an ultra-reliable last line of defence for the visitors, pulling off several crucial saves when the match still hung



Simon Colosimo: the Olyroo is in fine form, which is good news for Munro and Blanco.

in the balance.

Mendez and Emerton were the pick of an Olympic side that seems short on self-belief at the moment.

Coach Culina again blamed injuries to key players for the defeat. "Have a look at the lineup, at how many players were missing", he said.

"We haven't had one single game in 32 weeks where we've had our best team on the park."

"Carlton thoroughly deserved to win tonight. They're a good team."

"When you're out of confidence and under pressure, you do these things."

I can't ask for any more from anybody."

"Who would have thought we'd be relying on the last game."

Carlton's Stuart Munro commiserated with his colleague: "we were lucky in that we hit our slump with 15 games to go, when we could do something about it."

"It was a very nervy game tonight. We could have been 3-0 up in the first 15 minutes. In the end we managed to catch them on the counter-attack."

"The determination we showed tonight was terrific."

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Matic Machine rolls on inexorably to finals

MARCONI STALLIONS 2

Zeljko Babic 15, Maloney 52.

ADELAIDE CITY FORCE 4

Mori 8, Vidmar 11, Day 60, Hassell 70.

Sunday night at Marconi Stadium, Sydney. Crowd 6,155.



MATCH STATS



MARCONI STALLIONS: Turnbull, Kim (Di Gia 80), Babic M. Longo, Invincible, Renaud, Gibson (Farah 68), Maloney, Zoric, Awaritefe Babic Z (Trajanovski 43).



ADELAIDE CITY FORCE: Cagalj, Lagati, Costanzo, Tobin (Cartwright 85), Sabljak, Kemp, Veart, Vidmar (Kim 90), Hassell Mori, Pelosi (Day 28).

Yellows:

Stallions: Gibson 26, Awaritefe 49.
Force: Tobin 27, Costanzo 49.

BEST PLAYER:

3. VIDMAR (FORCE)
2. Maloney (Stallions)
1. Kemp (Force)

Referee: Eddie Lennie.



Aurelio Vidmar: showing why he was rated as one of the best buys.

By John Vrtaric

In a pulsating match Adelaide City Force and Marconi Stallions produced six goals to provide the good crowd of over six thousand with an exciting match but failed to please their respective coaches.

Adelaide's victory in a topsy-turvy match propelled them into the top six for the first time this season. With their ninth win in their last eleven games Adelaide continued what seems an inevitable march into a finals spot.

Force started the game in sensational style with two goals in the opening ten minutes that stunned both the Marconi defence and the home crowd.

This wasn't the first time that the home team had been put behind the eight ball so

early on and the supporters expected another second half fight-back to match their recent victories over Perth Glory and Gippsland Falcons. But although they did manage to lift themselves and draw level early in the second half it was Adelaide that finished the stronger to inflict the second defeat in a row on the Stallions and place them in some danger of missing out on the finals with only one game to go.

Marconi made on change to its starting line-up with captain Brad Maloney, on the outer for the last three games, returning to the mid-field in place of import Pierluigi Di Gia. Coach Eddie Krncevic was pleased with the performance of Maloney whom he considered to be the only good Marconi player in a disappointing team effort.

The in-form Zeljko Babic had the first scoring chance in the 7th minute when he jumped highest to head a defensive clearance just wide of Adrian Cagalj left post without causing too much consternation for the Force 'keeper.

In the next minute Adelaide opened the scoring with an opportune goal from the NSL's top goalscorer, Damian Mori. A free kick just inside the Marconi half was floated over the top of both Mark Babic and sweeper Pan Keun Kim with both expecting young 'keeper Michael Turnbull to collect the ball.

Unfortunately Turnbull was slow of the mark and Mori too quick for his marker, Dominic Longo, and nipped in front of Turnbull to push the ball into the net for the opening goal.

In the 9th minute Claudio Pelosi did well to beat Longo on the right to provide a cross to Mori in the middle but the prolific striker could only skim the ball with his head and was easily cleared.

But the visitors did not have long to wait for another goal. A minute later Pelosi played a good ball behind the Marconi defence to Aurelio Vidmar on the left. Kim came across but his sliding tackle was ineffectual and the ball bounced off Vidmar's shin and the former Australian international curved the ball beautifully around Turnbull and inside the far post.

It was case of deja vu for the home fans as they recalled a similar situation in the home game against Perth Glory. In that game Marconi stormed home to score three goals in the second half to achieve a remarkable victory.

The home fans didn't have to wait until the second half for their opening goal but before they scored they should have three goals down.

A minute after the Force had scored their second impressive youngster Matthew Kemp made a good run down the right and sent over a low cross. Both Pelosi and the Marconi defence missed the ball on the near post and it reached Mori on the far post. The NSL's greatest goal-scorer seemed surprised that the ball got that far and hurried his shot pushing it just wide of the post when he should have done much better.

The explosive Babic soon had Adelaide on the back-foot when in the 15th minute he received the ball deep in the Adelaide half wide on the left. He took on two defenders inside the box and got a fortunate bounce that fell nicely for a right foot shot that squeezed inside Turnbull's near post to register his seventh goal in eight games.

The goal seemed to inspire Marconi and they dominated the rest of the first half. They created a number of good opportunities with the best of them falling to the midfield duo of

Maloney and Vlado Zoric.

The first one fell to Zoric when he received a corner clearance in the 28th minute. His first time volley beat Cagalj but hit the crossbar and bounced out for a goal kick.

Five minutes later Maloney's attempted chip pass to Babic didn't reach its intended target but he was able to get it back on took off on a diagonal run. He beat Force captain Alex Tobin and hit a sliding left foot shot from just outside the box but Cagalj did well to get down to the shot.

In the 43rd minute Marconi suffered a decisive blow when they lost the dangerous Babic when he collapsed with a hamstring tear and had to be replaced.

Marconi started the second half in the same fashion they finished the first and was soon on level terms.

In the 52nd minute after a half chance was wasted Maloney celebrated his return with a goal. Substitute Kris Trajanovski's attempted pass to Francis Awaritefe was directed behind the gangly striker but the ball deflected off a defender to Maloney wide on the right. The captain controlled the ball and steadied before unleashing a low shot that nutmegged a defender and bounced off Cagalj's right post into the net.

The rejoicing home fans sat back and waited for another renowned second half onslaught from the Stallions.

But the Force had other ideas and soon put the home team under more pressure. A corner from Adelaide's left was placed perfectly in the box and replacement Nathan Day was first to the ball skillfully glancing it past Turnbull inside the far post.

A couple of close calls for both sides ensued before Adelaide delivered the coup de grace.

A free kick on Adelaide's left flank saw the ball directed towards the far post where Day headed it back to Vidmar who flicked the ball delicately back to Bradley Hassell. The midfielder's first time volley was sweetly hit and bounced off the diving Turnbull into the goal for an unassailable 4-2 lead.

Marconi held the upper hand in the last ten minutes and had a couple of chances, one of which was cleared off the line, but the Adelaide defence held out until the end.

The victory moves Adelaide into fifth spot



Matthew Kemp: continued his fine form in the Force revival

and into the top six for the first time this season. They are one point behind Marconi, one point in front of Sydney Olympic and two points in front of Newcastle who have a game in hand.

The last round becomes crucial with only the top two guaranteed a top six finish (depending on Newcastle's result in their deferred game). Marconi faces a tough away game against Canberra Cosmos, who have won three in a row, while Adelaide faces an equally hard home game against one of the form teams of the second round, Melbourne Knights



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INSIDE JUNIOR SOCCER

Spirit defeat minor premiers Power

By Roy Hay



Luke Tomich: on the scoresheet for the Breakers

Chris Conti was at AIS on a cool Canberra Autumn evening to see the AIS and the ACT Academy of Sport raise the temperature by playing an exciting 2-2 draw and pleased the crowd with direct and fluid football.

The AIS were fresh off the plane from their Italian tour, still flushed with their success in making the quarter-finals of the Tournament they had entered. The Academy were missing their injured influential midfielder Adam Williams in addition to long term injured Rohan Coleman and Adrien La Butte.

The AIS took the lead after nine minutes when Brett Townley-Jones smartly centred from the left wing and Franco Parisi powered sweetly on to the ball to blast it past Tony Giannasca in the Academy goal.

However in the 24th minute Academy

striker Goran Veljanovski took advantage of some slack work at the back of the AIS defence and slotted the ball past AIS keeper Peter Wood.

As the night wore on and got cooler the tackles became hard and uncompromising befitting the derby that it is, and referee Gerard Parsons had his hands full picking out the fouls from the hard but fair tackles.

The AIS took a 2-1 lead into the interval when another cross was swung over in the 37th minute - this time from the right - and Mitchell Johnson beat Giannasca to the ball and headed it into the net.

In the second half the ACTAS stormed back into the game. Veljanovski had another good attempt well saved by Wood, but in the 85th minute, Wood could not hold a Paul Ivanic long range shot and the ball skidded off the wet turf to Veljanovski who was following up the shot and he beat Wood to the ball and turned it into the net for the equaliser.

The Academy could have won the game in the dying minutes when Matt Anstey forced Wood to clear directly to the ACT skipper, Stephen Kemp, whose lob was just over the bar. Both teams had to settle for a point a piece.

ACTAS: Tony Giannasca, Danny Agnello (Andrew Aliffi), Ian Waldon, Dom La Butte, Stephen Kemp, Matt Anstey, Alvaro Guzman, Steve Arnott (Yosef Zamora), Daniel Aliffi (Amied Shadmaan), Goran Veljanovski, Paul Ivanic. Sub not used: Rade Kusanovic

AIS: Peter Wood, Mitchell Prentice, Brett Twonley-Jones (Rhys Lahy), Niall Fay, Ray Servlovski, Mark Tsiolas, David Tarka, Carl Valeri, Ian Bonato, Mitchell Johnson, Franco Parisi. Subs not used: Steve Pantelidis, Ben Mailer, Mimi Saric, Zoran Talevski.

Best Players: ACTAS: Kemp, Anstey, Veljanovski.

AIS: Valeri, Tsiolas, Tarka

Theo Katsaros reports that the Newcastle Breakers scored twice in each half in defeating their Colts on Friday night. The 4-0 result keeps the Breakers in the hunt for a finals spot. The Breakers have a tough road home with matches against the N.S.W.I.S. and the Marconi Stallions.

Peter Juchniewicz opened the scoring after 14 minutes

NORTHERN DIVISION NYL

	P	W	D	B	L	F	A	Pts
PARRAMATTA POWER	31	24	4	2	3	96	22	76
Northern Spirit	31	22	4	2	5	92	39	70
Marconi Stallions	29	21	2	2	6	80	27	65
Sydney Olympic	31	19	6	2	6	90	45	63
Newcastle Breakers	30	19	3	1	8	66	34	60
Q.A.S.	31	17	3	2	11	85	55	54
A.I.S.	30	15	6	2	9	85	42	51
Wollongong Wolves	30	13	5	2	12	43	45	44
Sydney United	31	13	3	2	15	46	58	42
A.C.T.A.S.	29	10	9	2	10	46	55	39
N.S.W.I.S.	30	9	7	2	14	46	49	34
Newcastle Colts	30	10	4	2	16	42	58	34
Syd. Olympic Academy	31	10	4	2	17	53	91	34
Northern Spirit Colts	30	6	6	2	18	33	69	24
Marconi Stallions Colts	30	6	5	2	19	43	96	23
Sydney United Colts	29	3	4	2	21	30	78	13
Wollongong Colts	31	1	3	2	27	18	131	6

ROUND 33

Newcastle Breakers	4	Newcastle Colts	0
Juchniewicz 14, O'Brien 27, Tomich 51, Angieviski 66			
Northern Spirit	1	Parramatta Power	0
Kane 81			
A.I.S.		A.C.T.A.S.	2
Parisi 8, Johnson 37		Veljanovski 23, 83	
N.S.W.I.S.	1	Sydney United	0
Gavaghan 51			
Sydney Olympic	5	Marconi Stall. Colts	1
Doumanis 5, Chahine 11, 32		Bugallo 84	
Gasper 15, Jomaa 29			
Wollongong Wolves	2	Wollongong Colts	1
Harlock 30, O'Grady 40		Dimech 5	
Marconi Stallions	1	Sydney Utd Colts	0
Severino 31			
A.I.S.	2	Syd. Olympic Acad.	2
Saric 45, Parisi 46		Sabuncuoglu 3, Tirovski 17	

Bye - Sydney Olympic Academy

NORTHERN DIVISION - Leading Scorers

Russell Miner	Q.A.S.	25
Daniel Severino	Marconi Stallions	20

Round 34 Fixtures

TUESDAY 2 MAY 2000

N'stle Breakers Colts v Sydney Utd Colts - Breakers Stad. 5.15pm

WEDNESDAY 3 MAY 2000

Marconi Stallions v A.I.S. - Marconi Stadium - 5.00pm

Newcastle Breakers v N.S.W.I.S. - Breakers Stadium - 7.00pm

FRIDAY 5 MAY 2000

Marconi Stallions v Newcastle Breakers - Marconi Stadium - 5.15pm

SATURDAY 6 MAY 2000

Wollongong Wolves Colts v Northern Spirit - Brandon Park 3.00pm

Syd. Utd Colts v Syd. Olym. Acad. - Syd Utd Sports Centre 4.00pm

SUNDAY 7 MAY 2000

Q.A.S. v A.I.S. - Suncorp Metway Stadium - 2.30pm

Parramatta Power v North. Spirit Colts - Parramatta Stad. - 2.30pm

Syd. Olympic v Sydney United - Belmore Sports Ground - 2.30pm

A.C.T.A.S. v Marconi Stallions - A.I.S. Multi-Purpose Field - 2.30pm

Newcastle Breakers Colts v N.S.W.I.S. - Breakers Stadium - 4.00pm

Marconi Stall. Colts v Wollong. Wolves - Marconi Stadium - 4.00pm

before Kurt O'Brien doubled the advantage on 27 minutes. After the break, Luke Tomich and Robert Angieviski recorded singles.

In what may be a prelude to the Northern Division Grand Final the Northern Spirit snatched a late winner over minor premiers, the Parramatta Power, at Christie Park. Derryk Kane giving the Spirit what may be a psychological edge going into the finals series with an 81st minute strike.

The teams may clash once again within a fortnight if the Spirit can maintain second spot on the league ladder from the fast finishing Marconi Stallions.

The A.I.S. backed up on Sunday to host the Sydney Olympic Academy. The Olympians charged out of the blocks and were rewarded with a 2-0 lead after 17 minutes. Yavuz Sabuncuoglu on 3 minutes and Sash Tirovki scoring for the visitors. Despite the send-off on 58 minutes of Zenon Caravella the visitors made their hosts earn their point.

The A.I.S. halved the deficit on the stroke of half-time courtesy of Greg Saric and were back on level terms a minute after the restart via Franco Parisi. At Valentine Park, the N.S.W.I.S. squeaked past Sydney United thanks to a Peter Gavaghan goal in the 51st minute. The Institute jumped two places on the ladder courtesy of the three points.

Sydney Olympic can clinch the final berth in the top 4 with a win next week after thumping the Marconi Stallions Colts at Belmore. The 5-1 result was well earned by a team that has been inconsistent of late. A five goal blitz in the first half ended the match as a contest.

A double to Ali Chahine and singles to Hussein Jomaa, Robert Gasper and Anthony Doumanis sealed a convincing win for Olympic. Jeff Bugallo scored a consolation goal for the Stallions.

At Brandon Park, the Wolves Youth defeated their Colts by two goals to one. All goals were scored in the first half of the match. The Colts took the lead on 5 minutes thanks to a strike from Paul Dimech but two goals in ten minutes to Neil Harlock and Paul O'Grady handed the Youth the three points.

The hottest team in the league at the moment must surely be the Marconi Stallions. The third placed Stallions have secured maximum points from the past 8 encounters and have the chance to finish in the top two if they continue their freakish run home.

A hard fought 1-0 victory over strugglers the Sydney United Colts maintained their winning sequence. Daniel Severino found the back of the net in the first half to take his season tally to 20.

Carlton is the minor premier in the Southern Division of the National Youth League after it beat South Dandenong by a goal to nil in Round 21 and the VIS failed to beat South Melbourne on Saturday.

South will finish third, with Bulleen and the Melbourne Knights fighting out the remaining spot in the play-offs. South Dandenong's inferior goal difference rules it out though it has the same points as the Knights going into the last round.

Mathew Nikolic scored the one goal of the game for Carlton against South Dandenong on Tuesday, setting up what should be an intriguing game against the VIS next week, though both teams may play it capily ahead of the play-offs.

Albury Wodonga had a morale-boosting three-one away win over Fawknor Blues on Monday in a Round 20 match. Two goals to David Martin and a single by John Ritchie saw the Warriors home, while Steve Panebianco scored for the Blues.

Fawknor was back in action again on Thursday in a Round 14 game against South Melbourne, going down by four goals to two. South lead four-nil at the break following goals by Anthony Magnacca, Rade Culibrik, Elias Dimourtzidis and Shane Di Gioacchino.

It was perhaps inevitable that South slackened off in the second half and Fawknor did fight back with Paul Butera scoring twice. That double effort proved too much for Fawknor and the match against Gippsland Falcons scheduled for Saturday did not take place.

The VIS and South Melbourne drew two-all in blustery conditions at Grange Reserve on Saturday. Cerkar Oksuz scored after 15 minutes for the VIS and it took South Melbourne till the last minute of the first half to grab an equaliser through Elias Dimourtzidis.

Simon Storey beat three men on his way to a brilliant individual goal in 74 minutes, but South came back again with Dimourtzidis scoring a second equaliser with only two minutes left to play.

South knocked the ball around well, but picked up a string of yellow cards, while the VIS showed the benefits of its Malaysian tour with a very collected and focussed performance.

Melbourne Knights Academy had a three-nil win to end Presto Lions season at Knights Stadium.

There was only one goal in it at the break, but the Academy scored two more and had two disallowed in a comprehensive victory. Goalscorers were Daniel Piorkowski, Tom Razov and Michael Vorija.

SOUTHERN DIVISION NYL

VIS 2	South Melbourne 2
Oksuz, Storey	Dimourtzidis 2
Simon	
Knights Academy 3	Preston Lions 0
Piorkowski, Razov, Vorija	
Bye v Melbourne Knights	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Carlton	19	15	4	0	71	11	49
VIS	19	14	2	3	57	15	44
South Melbourne	18	11	2	5	50	19	35
Bulleen Inter Kings	19	10	2	7	47	34	32
Melbourne Knights	19	9	3	7	50	42	30
South Dandenong	19	9	3	7	37	32	30
Gippsland Falcons	18	7	4	7	38	40	25
Knights Academy	18	5	2	11	19	34	17
Fawknor Blues	18	4	3	11	21	50	15
Albury Wodonga	19	3	3	13	22	64	12
Preston Lions	20	1	2	17	16	87	5

LEADING GOALSCORERS

Antony Pelikan	Melbourne Knights	19
Elias Dimourtzidis	South Melbourne/AIS	14
Peter Kakos	Gippsland Falcons	11
David Martin	Albury Wodonga	11
David Terek	VIS	11

SATURDAY 6 MAY 2000

VIS v Carlton (Grange Reserve, 3.30 pm)

Albury Wodonga v South Dandenong (Alexandra Park, 4 pm)

SUNDAY 7 MAY 2000

South Melbourne v Gippsland Falcons (Bob Jane Stadium, 3.30 pm)

Bulleen Inter v Melbourne Knights (Mahoneys Reserve, 4 pm)

Melbourne Knights Academy v Fawknor Blues (Knights Stadium, 4 pm)

Bye v Preston Lions

3-page ANZAC DAY ROUND SUMMARY

CARLTON 2

Thompson 56, Terminello 95.

SOUTH MELBOURNE 0

Tuesday night at Olympic Park, Melbourne. Crowd 5,034.



MATCH STATS:



CARLTON: Anastasiadis; Horvat, McPherson, Deans, Atkinson, Marth, Colosimo (Terminello 71), Slater (Packer 61), Lapsansky, Thompson, Conroy (Moreira 84).



SOUTH MELBOURNE: Jones; Iosifidis, Orlic, Liparoti, De Amicis, Lozanovski, Panopoulos, Trimboli, Coveny, Curcija, Anastasiadis (Magnacca 71).

Yellows:

Carlton: Colosimo 30, Horvat 78, Thompson 88.

South: Panopoulos 23, Coveny 65, Curcija 69.

Reds:

South: Orlic 68.

BEST PLAYER:

3. THOMPSON (CARL)

2. Iosifidis (SM)

1. Deans (Carl)

Referee: Jeremy Blaney.

By Kevin Christopher

It may not have had the goals of the previous meeting on April 14, but this latest derby lacked none of the tension with a solitary goal separating the sides until David Terminello's clincher deep into injury time.

Until then the visitors had looked like pinching a point and tipping Carlton out of the six in the process. But Alex Moreira came off the bench to exploit the space provided as Souths pressed for a late equaliser and when he provided a fine cut-back into the path of Terminello, the former Adelaide City player picked his spot and side-footed just inside Chris Jones' left post with aplomb.

The loss finally ended Souths faint hopes of a finals berth, but it was a different story earlier in the night with news of Newcastle's loss to Sydney United suddenly rekindling the dreams of their supporters. With the tunnel suddenly visible again, and with Carlton desperate for a victory by any means, the match was an unusually tight affair with both coaches eliminating the defensive abnormalities of a fortnight ago.

Neither goalkeeper was overworked in the opening period, with the visitors' best chance coming via a Lozanovski free kick which was spilled by Dean Anastasiadis, but the Carlton keeper recovered before his brother could open the scoring.

Steve Panopoulos was lucky to escape a second yellow card after retarding Archie Thompson, and Robert Liparoti was forced

from the field due to the blood rule, but first half goalmouth action was rare.

The second half produced far better entertainment, with Souths forcing a succession of corners but as is so often the case, Carlton opened the scoring on a fast break-away.

A Souths corner was cleared to Archie Thompson and he set off on a fifty metre run from inside his own half. With De Amicis back-peddalling, Thompson cut to the right and placed a perfect shot past Chris Jones, celebrating with a well-practiced break-dancing routine.

Souths lifted a gear but their aggression was misplaced with Coveny copping a yellow for a foul on Colosimo before Orlic was sent off for a bad foul on Lapsansky.

Carlton should have made the game safe with fourteen minutes remaining but Thompson perfect cut-back into the path of an unmarked Mike Conroy was spooned over from twelve metres. The luckless Conroy was substituted soon after, provoking the second biggest cheer of the night from the Carlton (un)faithful.

Anthony Magnacca almost stunned Carlton in injury time but his shot dribbled wide before Moreira and Terminello com-

bined to put the match beyond doubt.



Carlton's Archie Thompson

BRISBANE STRIKERS 2

Grierson 75, Srhoj 81.

NORTHERN SPIRIT 0

Tuesday night at Suncorp Metway Stadium, Brisbane.

MATCH STATS:



BRISBANE STRIKERS: 1. Bolton, 2. Gwynne, 3. Stefanutto, 8. Pilic (19. Miner), 9. Foster, 10. Srhoj, 12. Dwyer, 13. McLaren, 14. North, 15. Webber, 16. Grierson. Subs not used: 5. Bell, 6. Ditton.



NORTHERN SPIRIT: 20. Van Stratten, 2. Enes, 4. Bingley, 5. Rudan, 11. Cranney, 12. Catanzaro (23. Snyder 79'), 14. Lyons (17. Bilokapic 85'), 18. Wearne, 21. Cunico, 25. R Griffiths, 27. A Griffiths. Sub not Used: 13. Moss.

Yellows:

Brisbane: Stuart McLaren 91'.

Spirit: Shane Lyons 28', Jess Van Stratten 68', Matthew Bingley 80'.

BEST PLAYER:

1. WAYNE SRHOJ (BRISBANE)

2. Peter Grierson (Brisbane)

3. Griffiths (Spirit)

Crowd: 1,669.

Referee: Matthew Breeze

By Cameron Atfield

Two second-half goals handed the Brisbane Strikers victory over a young Northern Spirit side at Suncorp Metway Stadium on Saturday night, in a game that would not have inspired many at the ground.

For the Strikers, it was a matter of too little too late, with a finals berth now looking out of reach.

The first half was a scrappy affair with neither side dominating, and many in the season-low crowd of 1669 would have wondered why they bothered turning up on a dismal ANZAC Day evening.

The Strikers came out in the second half looking like the team with more at stake, and they went ahead in the 75th minute through Peter Grierson.

He evaded two Spirit defenders and placed his low shot neatly past Jess Van Stratten in the Spirit goal.

Six minutes later, Brisbane's lead was doubled when Matthew Bingley's tackle on Wayne Srhoj earned him a yellow card and conceded a free kick outside the area.

Srhoj stepped up and drilled the ball through the Spirit wall and past Van Stratten to give the home side a 2-0 win.

After the game, Brisbane coach John Kosmina and his Spirit counterpart Graham Arnold refused to rule the Strikers out of finals contention.

But any neutral observers would agree it would take a minor miracle for the Strikers to make the Six.

SYDNEY UNITED 1

Maric 15.

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS 0

Tuesday night at Sydney United Sports Centre, Sydney.

MATCH STATS:



SYDNEY UNITED: Hughes, Kupresak (c), Bosnar, Rastall, Arrarte, Moric, Genc, Maric, Palapanis, Pondeljak, Bosevski (Deur 88); subs not used - Rakic, Bozinovski.



NEWCASTLE BREAKERS: Catlin, Pryce (c) (Smith 84), McManus, Moore, Sprod, Dodd (Tancheski 58), Wilson, Wieczorek, Owens, Harper, Buonavoglia; sub not used - Juchniewicz.

Yellows:

United: Hughes 67, Palapanis 92

Breakers: McManus 73, Moore 81

BEST PLAYER:

3. VELIMIR KUPRESAK (UNITED)

2. Tom Pondeljak (United)

1. Bob Catlin (Newcastle)

Crowd: 2,876.

Referee: Mark Shield

By Chris Dunkerley

What may be Velimir Kupresak's last home game before taking up a new role at the club turned into homage to both his hardly diminished skills and to his captaincy.

Leading by example, and ably supported by his midfield, he tripped up Newcastle Breakers who stumbled on their journey toward the finals.

Across the park the weary Breakers, still aching from their battle with Carlton three days before, were closed down early. United attacked from the whistle and with Tom Pondeljak freely prompting it seemed likely they would score first. After a corner on the right was poorly cleared to Ante Moric he lobbed in a 'hand-grenade' which the defence failed to clear and Tom Maric struck out and nailed it into the net in the 15th minute.

It was Catlin's only lapse as he steadied the ship, took well a Bosevski shot 20 mins later, and also lapped up what little came his way thereafter. For the rest of the game Newcastle had more possession and better chances but despite good effort by Shane Pryce and Glenn Moore the midfield went missing.

Even Newcastle's dynamic striking duo of Andy Harper and John Buonavoglia could not prise open the barriers set by United on a bumpy minefield of a pitch.

Only a header by Harper and a last gasp screamer from substitute Tancheski troubled Hughes.

United's last game at home turned into a celebration but Newcastle may rue the lost opportunity to step forward with three hard games to come and Adelaide coming round the bend fast.

Glory and Olympic put on show

PERTH GLORY 1

Ergic 60

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 0

Tuesday night at Perth Oval, Perth.

MATCH STATS:



PERTH GLORY: Petkovic, Afkos, Valle, Milicevic, Naven, Miller (Carbone 40), Ergic (Aurelio 71), Edgar, Wehrman, Despotovski (Buljan 82), Edwards.



SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Perosh, Thomas, Tsekenis, Sinozic, Wilson (Kyriazopoulos 62), Emerton, Goutzioulis (Mendez 46), Kohler, Marusic Cardozo, Arambasic (Zorbas 80).

Yellows:

Glory: Despotovski 3, Miller 10, Edgar 75.

Olympic: Goutzioulis 7, Marusic 29, Wilson 52, Kohler 52.

BEST PLAYER:

3. DION VALLE (GLORY)
2. Jason Petkovic (Glory)
1. Ljubo Milicevic (Glory)

Referee: Brett Hugo

By Dennis Gedling

Perth Glory had all the luck on a wet and sloppy Perth Oval to overcome an entertaining Sydney Olympic 1-0.



Big Glory defender Dion Valle.

A goal on the hour by teenage star Ivan Ergic was the difference between two desperate for the vital three points to bring a top two ladder position closer.

The game was end to end action with Olympic doing all the attacking in the latter part of the game but the home sides defence held up very well and canceled out the dangerous paring of Zlatko Arambasic and Pablo Cardozo.

Both sides had limited chances in the first half, only a shot by Arambasic being well saved by an in form Jason Petkovic keeping the score at nil all.

Scott Miller was a stand out for the Perth side in the first half but he came off just before half time with breathing problems after receiving a blow to the throat by an Olympic player.

In the second half the tempo was lifted

with both sides searching for the telling goal but the conditions and well-organised defences kept the game tight.

Glory's chance came when an excellent corner from the substitute John Carbone went right into the danger area in the box. The ball pinged around between defenders and strikers before the ball fell to Ergic, his first shot deflected off a defender straight back to his feet and he made no mistake the second time, slotting it past the keepers left.

Olympic dominated the game in the final half-hour but Glory did have their chances. A gift goal opportunity was blown by the out of sorts Wehrman when he put the ball over the bar. The Soccerroo looked uncomfortable throughout the match, constantly turning over the ball, particularly in the latter part of the match.

Olympic did have a goal disallowed when Cardozo was ruled offside.

Glory defenders Dion Valle, Ljubo Milicevic and Gareth Naven were the real heroes. Petkovic, too, for his vital saves and organisation of his defence.

The full time whistle was a relief to the home crowd which applauded the two sides that went at it tooth and nail for the duration of the game. The noise and chanting at this game was not seen at Perth Oval all season long.

After the game Bernd Stange praised his sides fighting qualities making mention of how the press during the week had questioned the players commitment to finish in the top two. Stange said: "The quality wasn't so good but the team was hungry and had passion and commitment."

He was especially proud of his youngsters Milicevic, Afkos (who played an excellent game on the right flank in place of Trajkovski),



Emerging Glory star Ljubo Milicevic.

Carbone and Ergic.

Ergic simply said: "It was great to get a win, my goal was only a tap-in but I'm not fazed", in his typical laid back approach.

Olympic coach Branco Culina was his usual outspoken self, renewing his ambition to quit the league at season's end. Culina was obviously disappointed and commented: "If players can't cope on the football pitch how are they going to cope in real life situations."

Culina also stated that the top six is their goal at the moment and not a top two finish. The most disappointing aspect of Olympic performance was the ease in which Brett Emerton, Cardozo and Arambasic were shut out of the game.

CANBERRA COSMOS 2

DeJesus 33, 79.

FOOTBALL KINGZ 1

Rufer 29.

Tuesday night at Bruce Stadium, Canberra.

MATCH STATS:



CANBERRA COSMOS: Konstantinou, Milin, Popovich, Winnie, Arranz, Hamilton (Castro 67), James (Watkins 11), Prenzoski, Hooker, Roberts (Clark 77), De Jesus.



FOOTBALL KINGZ: Duke, Bunce, Lammers (Van Steeden 85), Perry (Middleby 60), Stergiopoulos, Rufer, Jackson, Ngata, Vichelich, Jones (Campbell 69), Hickey.

Yellows:

Cosmos: Milin (67), Arranz (81)
Kingz: nil

BEST PLAYER:

3. D. MILIN (COSMOS)
2: I. Prenzoski (Cosmos)
1: M. Stergiopoulos (Kingz)
Referee: G. Connolly

By Nick Guoth

Canberra Cosmos put an end to any hope the Football Kingz had of making the finals in this their first season in the National League.

Two inspirational goals by Ivo De Jesus

ALL THE WAY WITH IDJ

more than cancelled out Wynton Rufer's header early in the game. In fact, other than the error that led to the Kingz goal, the Cosmos defence, with David Milin playing the game of his life, were all over their opponents.

It was all tight early on then in the 29th minute Stergiopoulos was able to shake off Robert Hooker to send in a cross where Rufer had detached himself from the swarm of defenders and headed forcefully home.

Yet it took only four minutes for the Cosmos to reply. The ball was slowly being moved around the defence of the Kingz just on the edge of their box.

DeJesus anticipated where it would go and challenged young Noah Hickey for the ball winning it and slotting it past Daniel Duke and inside the far post.

When Alex Castro came on 20 minutes into the second half life came back to the Cosmos. And a few minutes later they scored the go-ahead goal.

A long ball went to Daniel Watkins on the left. He brought it in and passed to Hooker who layed it off to DeJesus. His delicate chip was just that as it ever so slowly flew over Duke's and Che Bunce's head and just in under the bar.

Canberra had a number of chances to put the game away, Watkins being the main culprit, but were just happy to take their second win on the trot for the first time since Boxing Day 1995!

ADELAIDE CITY FORCE 3

Mori 14, 32, Pelosi 88.

GIPPSLAND FALCONS 1

Nilo 2.

Tuesday night at Hindmarsh Stadium.



MATCH STATS:

ADELAIDE CITY FORCE: Cagalj, Lagati, Tobin, Mori, Veart, Sabljak, Vidmar, Kemp, Costanzo, Hassell (Kim 86), Pelosi.



GIPPSLAND FALCONS: Jevdjovic, Fak, MacNicol, Vargas, Robertson,

Hutchinson, Savage, Buhagiar, Nilo (Mandic 86), Sekulovski (Puca 63), Katz.

Yellows: Nil

BEST PLAYER:

3. COSTANZO (FORCE)
2. Jevdjovic (Falcons)
1. Hassell (Force)

Crowd: 6,470.

Referee: Perry Mur.

By Margaret Bowden and Donald Campbell

The fire alarms sounded around Hindmarsh Stadium just before kick-off. By the time the fire brigade

FALCONS NO MATCH

FOR NSL FORM SIDE

arrived, the Falcons had burnt City.

A mistimed headed clearance from Player of the Match Angie Costanzo went straight up in the air. Amazingly, Juan Nilo, the smallest player on the pitch, leapt in front of Adrian Cagalj to head the ball into the net.

This was the spark needed to set City alight.

Bradley Hassell and Carl Veart tore through the midfield. Damian Mori and Claudio Pelosi made perfect position for every ball forward.

This was the City of old, pinball passing up and down the pitch with such speed and precision Gippsland couldn't catch them.

Then Mori slammed the equaliser into the net in the 14th minute from a brilliantly plotted free kick.

John Hutchinson almost put Gippsland ahead with a long range piledriver, but the ball hit the underside of the crossbar.

Mori notched his 20th goal of the season, heading over Bojo Jevdjovic for 2-1.

It was goal shooting practice for City from then on with Jevdjovic stopping a string of point blank shots.

Pelosi put the icing on the cake for City with a superb weaving run through the penalty area, rounding the heroic keeper to make it 3-1.

Wolves head for minor premiership

PARRAMATTA POWER 1
Griffiths 53.
WOLLONGONG WOLVES 2
Young 28, Cervinski 71.



MATCH STATS:



PARRAMATTA POWER: A Crews, D Barrett (C), S Laybutt, M Byrnes, S Eagleton, P Gatt (J Angelucci 52), J Gibson, W Ardone (D Townsend 78), M Sterjovski, J Griffiths, A Elrich.



WOLLONGONG WOLVES: L Pogliacomi, A Ceccoli, R Stanton, D Cervinski, M Horsley (C), P Reid, S Young (D Huxley 78), S Chipperfield, N Spencer (M Robertson 78), S Petrovski, D Mennillo.

Yellows:

Parramatta: Pat Gatt 26, Steve Laybutt 32, Dave Barrett 62, Joel Griffiths 82.

Wollongong: Saso Petrovski 54, Les Pogliacomi 82, Mennillo 92.

BEST PLAYER:

3. DAVID CERVINSKI(WOLVES)
2. Joel Griffiths(Power)
1. Paul Reid(Wolves)

Referee: Eddie Lennie.

By Paul Goodwin

Competition leaders Wollongong, urged on by a travelling band of fans in a fuller than usual Parramatta Stadium, secured the win they needed to ensure a top two placing when they overcame Parramatta Power in a gutsy display on Anzac Day.

Neither side really deserved to lose this engaging encounter and it was a toss of the coin which one would prevail until the unfortunate red card to Power defender Steve Laybutt just over an hour into the contest.

Laybutt was one of two Parramatta players to receive a second caution in a game that was generally played in a good spirit, but was very competitive.

Parramatta had not long equalised at that stage and gave every indication of going on with the job, but the extra man proved too much for the home side to counter and within ten minutes the Wolves had regained the lead.

After a first twenty minutes full of excitement and chances at either end Wollongong had taken the lead to dim the hopes of the Power supporters.

Scott Chipperfield got away down the left and his cross found Saso Petrovski out wide on the right and converging on the 6 yard box.

Petrovski headed downwards and the ball bounced over the advancing Andrew Crews and was bundled over the line, where it was already headed anyway, by Stuart Young to ensure there was no doubt.

Both keepers to that point had made a number of saves and defenders had also been



The indefatigable David Cervinski: surely a candidate for player of the year.

forced to scramble shots clear, with Petrovski and Chipperfield both denied for the Wolves and John Gibson twice and Laybutt also out of luck in similar style.

Paul Reid almost made it two in the 51st when on the end of a Young pass, but Crews was alert and saved his attempted chip shot.

Then Parramatta visionary Walter Ardone sent Joel Griffiths away with a lofted ball over the heads of defenders which allowed the talented youngster to race into the penalty area on the right and hit a shot on the rise past helpless Pogliacomi.

With Laybutt sent off in the 62nd the Wolves began to get on top again and immediately Reid clipped over the bar and Chipperfield was closed down quickly by Barrett as he prepared to shoot.

It wasn't long, however, before Wollongong regained the lead.

Dino Mennillo's corner from the right in the 71st was delivered to the centre of the area, about 12 yards out and Cervinski dived low to head the ball towards the goal at a height which made it skid off the greasy surface and into the net.

Parramatta fought to the finish with efforts by Griffiths and Gibson out of luck, the latter's shot being tipped over in the 87th minute.

The crowd got their money's worth and the visitors the result they needed, but for Power it was another disappointing outcome and leaves them among the stragglers now instead of among the elite, as they had hoped earlier in the season.

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 3
Kiratzoglou 21, Cervinski 48, Kelic 7.
MARCONI STALLIONS 0

Tuesday night at Knights Stadium, Melbourne. Crowd 2,036.



MATCH STATS:



MELBOURNE KNIGHTS: Acevski, Rados, Kovacevic, Vargas, Vukadin, Nastevski, Kiratzoglou, Zold, Reda (Pelikan 73"), Cervinski (Urlovic 79"), Kelic.



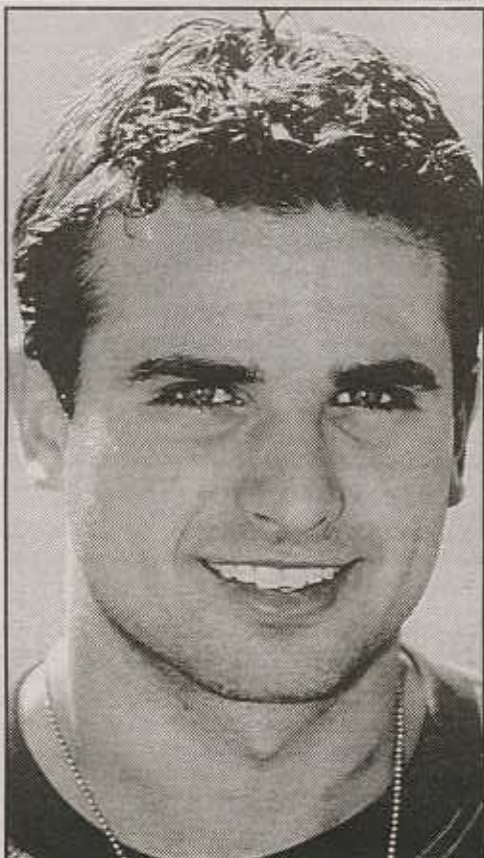
MARCONI STALLIONS: Turnbull, M Babic, Kim (Trajanovski 69), Longo, Gibson, Renaud, Invincible, Di Gia (Farah 60), Z Babic, Awaritefe, Zoric (Care 60).

Yellows: Nil

BEST PLAYER:

3. CERVINSKI (KNIGHTS)
2. Vukadin (Knights)
1. Vargas (Knights)

Referee: Simon Micallef



By Mark Fisher

Marconi came to Somers Street on Saturday in the physical sense, yet seemed to have left their renowned

creativity, inspiration and spark back at home in Sydney.

Unfortunately for the Stallions, the Melbourne Knights were aware of this very early on, and duly put three nicely worked goals

into their opponents' net as proof of their ability to recognise and then capitalise on any poorly controlled space afforded them.

In fact the Knights rarely looked troubled throughout the match, which would have to be of major concern to Stallions coach Eddie Krncevic.

The 'impeccably dressed one', after witnessing what he described as a "disgraceful" performance, must now restore full faith in playmaker Brad Maloney in the hope that he fires up Marconi's engine room in the way he did late last season.

The Knights peppered the goal without reward until the 21st minute, when Jason Vukadin (left) dispossessed the threatening Francis Awaritefe on the right back flank.

Vukadin raced down the right wing in space, linked up with Michael Reda at the half way line, and Reda then delivered a masterful long pass to the other wing, eluding Pan Keun Kim's intercepting boot but finding that of teammate Alex Kiratzoglou.

Kiratzoglou then outpaced Kim down the left and then worked inside the area, finishing off with an incisive drive past the Stallions' custodian.

With a one-goal advantage at half time, and with momentum on their side, Vanis' Knights went on to finish the job in convincing fashion.

The goal of the game was Adrian Cervinski's (above right) effort three minutes into the second half, after he nonchalantly backheeled into the left half of the net past a disbelieving Turnbull.

The ball came to him by way of a precision-guided low cross from young improver



Vukadin near the right corner post.

Errors in defence by Marconi's back three were being translated into big dividends for the Knights.

Kelic, edging slowly into the area in the 71st minute, rounded off proceedings by gobbling up Slavko Rados' deflected strike.

The big man calmly shot past the left side of the 'keeper and deep into the right side of the net.

A well-deserved consolation victory for the Knights, but in the final wash-up they must now watch the race to the finals from the sidelines.

Super League Summary

No major surprises last weekend, with the possible exception of Sutherland's 2-1 away win over Bankstown and the emphatic nature of Fairfield's 4-2 win over Eastern Suburbs Wanderers.

Fairfield is a team which has always looked promising, but never quite lived up to expectations this season, but Joe Watson's outfit turned on a fine performance with the goals being shared by danger man Matthew Borg, George Zabetakis, Sam Larocca and Taner Omac.

Eastern Suburbs went to a very early lead with a penalty in the first minute, but were then outplayed by Fairfield until they managed to pull another one back in the 80th minute to Peter Pulicino.

Bankstown was punished for failing to convert numerous first-half chances when the counter-attacking Sharks went 1-0 up shortly before the break in the Jensen Park game.

Kris Karanasos scored one of the goals of the season when he perfectly executed a

but the visitors held their nerve to run out 2-1 winners.

Bonnyrigg made it look too easy with a 4-0 romp at home against Canterbury Marrickville. With Canterbury hit by injuries and the 'flu, Jimmy Patikas had to dig deep into younger squads, and the visitors were not helped when Mendes was sent off with his second cautionable offence in the 64th minute.

Both Colin Luff and John Ghiso added two goals apiece to their already large tally for the season.

Leichhardt beat Macarthur 2-1 in a thriller at Lambert Park, Vuko Tomasevic and James Stubbs-Mills being the scorers, with Matthew O'Shea netting for the beaten Rams.

Blacktown kept up the pressure on Bonnyrigg by dealing efficiently with Penrith Panthers for an expected away win of 0-2, with goals to Chris Bradley and (yet again) Mark Hagger.

Bonnyrigg and Blacktown are one point apart on the Super League ladder, with a similar attacking record but with Blacktown having a superior defensive record.

Their match-up in two weeks time is likely to be the match of the season to date and should not be missed by any Super League fan.

Other results included goal-less draws between Central Coast and Manly Warringah at

bicycle-kick from inside the penalty box.

The second-half was a carbon copy of the first with Bankstown camped in Sutherland's defensive zone but unable to beat Sutherland's custodian, Dennes Olla.

The Sharks scored again in the 70th minute when Jimmy Corbo fired a low shot left of the diving Zlatko Joseski.

An Ian MacDonald goal for Bankstown in the 80th minute resulted in a tense finish,

Plum Park and between St George and Parramatta Eagles at St George Stadium.

Next weekend's matches between Blacktown and St George at Gabbie Stadium on Saturday, and Parramatta and Bonnyrigg at Melita Stadium and Fairfield and Bankstown at Nineveh Field on Sunday all hold plenty of interest in terms of the Super League table.

Super League top scorers

MARK HAGGER	BLACKTOWN	18
COLIN LUFF	BONNYRIGG	16
JIMMY ASCHNER	EASTERN SUBURBS	15
JOHNNY GHISO	BONNYRIGG	15
STEVE KARAVATAKIS	LEICHHARDT	15
ADAM ANDERSON	PARRAMATTA	13
JIM BAKIS	ST GEORGE	11

SUPER LEAGUE SOCCER

THIS SUNDAY AFTERNOON 7 MAY AT

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PARRAMATTA

EAGLES

V

BONNYRIGG

WHITE EAGLES

SEE SUPER LEAGUE'S POWERFUL EAGLES TAKE ON THE TOP OF THE TABLE BONNYRIGG

FIRST GRADE 3PM - UNDER 21 1PM - UNDER 18 11AM

ADULTS \$10 - STUDENT & PENSIONERS \$5
KIDS UNDER 16 \$2

NSW RESULTS

FEDERATION DIVISION ONE: FIRST GRADE: Dulwich Hill 2 (A Stubbs 35m Z Momircevi 85m) Ryde City Gunners 0, Hajduk Wanderers 2 (J Ellul 45m T Worrall 83m) Bathurst '75 0, Illawarra Lions 0 M.S.C. Liverpool 0, AC United 1 (A Arajuo 39m) Stanmore Hawks 0, Rockdale City Suns 0 Fraser Park 2 (Own Goal 73m B Burrows 76m), Hurstville City 2 (H Bayhan 10m M Sarikakis 16m) Minotaurs Auburn United 2 (Own Goal 32m N Vares 60m). **UNDER 21:** Dulwich Hill 4 Ryde City Gunners 0, Hajduk Wanderers 4 Bathurst '75 1, Illawarra Lions 0 M.S.C. Liverpool 6, AC United 1 Stanmore Hawks 1, Rockdale City Suns 0 Fraser Park 3, Hurstville City Minotaurs 7 Auburn United 0. **UNDER 18:** Dulwich Hill 2 Ryde City Gunners 5, Hajduk Wanderers 2 Bathurst '75 2, Illawarra Lions 0 M.S.C. Liverpool 6, AC United 0 Stanmore Hawks 0, Rockdale City Suns 3 Fraser Park 2, Hurstville City Minotaurs 4 Auburn United 3.

FEDERATION DIVISION TWO: FIRST GRADE: Hills United 1 Hurstville ZSC 2, Belmore Hercules 1 Central Coast Lakers 0, Greystanes 1 Hills United 0, Mt Druitt Town Rangers 1 Sydney University 4, Mt Pritchard 4 White City 3, Sydney District 2 Hurstville ZSC 3, University of NSW 1 Hakoah 1. **UNDER 21:** Hills United Hurstville ZSC Washed Out, Belmore Hercules 3 Central Coast Lakers 0, Greystanes 1 Hills United 1, Mt Druitt Town Rangers 2 Sydney University 0, Mt Pritchard 2 White City 0, Sydney District 2 Hurstville ZSC 3, University of NSW 1 Hakoah 6. **UNDER 18:** Hills United Hurstville ZSC Washed Out, Belmore Hercules 1 Central Coast Lakers 2, Greystanes 1 Hills United 3, Mt Druitt Town Rangers 0 Sydney University 0, Mt Pritchard 6 White City 2, Sydney District 2 Hurstville ZSC 4, University of NSW 1 Hakoah 1.

FEDERATION DIVISION THREE: FIRST GRADE: Balmain 1 Camden Tigers 1, Parramatta City 0 The Wanderers 5, Colo Colo 4 Nepean District 1, Prospect United 0 Western Sydney Lions 1, Holy Cross Ryde 2 Trasandinos 2, Prairiewood United 1 Liverpool City 0. **RESERVE GRADE:** Balmain 2 Camden Tigers 3, Parramatta City 3 The Wanderers 3, Colo Colo 1 Nepean District 1, Prospect United 0 Western Sydney Lions 2, Holy Cross Ryde 1 Trasandinos 2, Prairiewood United 5 Liverpool City 1.

FEDERATION DIVISION FOUR: FIRST GRADE: CSI Schofields 1 Springwood 5, Maroubra United 2 Auburn Star 3, Sporting SCC 3 CSI Schofields 1, Granville Greenisland 4 Springwood 2, Marrickville 1 Kellyville Kolts 3, United Eagles 4 Eastern Creek Pioneers 2, Sydney Crescent Star 1 Hawkesbury City 3. **RESERVE GRADE:** CSI Schofields 1 Springwood 2, Maroubra United 2 Auburn Star 4, Sporting SCC 2 CSI Schofields 1, Granville Greenisland 2 Springwood 0, Marrickville 0 Kellyville Kolts 6, United Eagles 2 Eastern Creek Pioneers 1, Sydney Crescent Star 0 Hawkesbury City 1.

FEDERATION DIVISION FIVE: FIRST GRADE: Kosciusko 1 Petersham 0, Bossy 3 Birrong Sports 0, Lithgow Workmen 1 Fairfield City 3, Hinchinbrook Juniors 3 Western Sydney Passion 9, Liverpool Olympic 0 UTS 2. **RESERVE GRADE:** Kosciusko 0 Petersham 2, Bossy 3 Birrong Sports 1, Lithgow Workmen 1 Fairfield City 1, Hinchinbrook Juniors 0 Western Sydney Passion 3 (win by forfeit), Liverpool Olympic 2 UTS 1.

WOMENS SUPER LEAGUE: FIRST GRADE: Northern NSW/HAS 2 Manly 4, Northern NSW/HAS 6 Macarthur Rams 0, Marconi 2 NSW Academy 0, Manly Warringah Dolphins 2 Sutherland Sharks 2, Gladesville Ravens 1 Nepean Association 2, Central Coast Lakers 3 Wollongong Wolves 3. **GRADE 21:** Northern NSW/HAS 1 Manly 1, Northern NSW/HAS 5 Macarthur Rams 2, Manly Warringah Dolphins 3 Sutherland Sharks 3, Gladesville Ravens 6 Nepean Association 2, Central Coast Lakers 1 Wollongong Wolves 2.

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE: FIRST GRADE: Roselands Raptors 2 Bathurst City 4, UTS 0 St George Association 0, Inter Lions 0 CSI Schofields 0, Gladesville Hornsby Koalas 1 Hajduk Wanderers 2. **GRADE 19:** Roselands Raptors 0 Bathurst City 6, UTS 0 St George Association 1, Inter Lions 2 CSI Schofields 2, Gladesville Hornsby Koalas 3 Hajduk Wanderers 1.

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE: GRADE 13: Sydney Olympic 2 Sutherland Sharks 3, Marconi Stallions 5 Fairfield Bulls 0, Leichhardt Tigers 4 Eastern Suburbs Wanderers 0, Penrith Panthers 1 Bankstown City 2, St George 1 Parramatta Eagles 6, Sydney United 0 Wollongong Wolves 1, Manly Warringah Dolphins 3 Canterbury Marrickville 1, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 4 Central Coast Coasties 1, Northern Spirit 1 Newcastle Breakers 1. **GRADE 14:** Sydney Olympic 2 Sutherland Sharks 0, Marconi Stallions 2 Fairfield Bulls 0, Leichhardt Tigers 2 Eastern Suburbs Wanderers 1, Penrith Panthers 0 Bankstown City 3, St George 1 Parramatta Eagles 2, Sydney United 1 Wollongong Wolves 4, Manly Warringah Dolphins 6 Canterbury Marrickville 1, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 4 Central Coast Coasties 1, Northern Spirit 1 Newcastle Breakers 0. **GRADE 15:** Sydney Olympic 3 Sutherland Sharks 0, Marconi Stallions 4 Fairfield Bulls 1, Leichhardt Tigers 1 Eastern Suburbs Wanderers 0, Penrith Panthers 1 Bankstown City 3, St George 1 Parramatta Eagles 3, Sydney United 1 Wollongong Wolves 1, Manly Warringah Dolphins 1 Canterbury Marrickville 0, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 4 Central Coast Coasties 1, Northern Spirit 2 Newcastle Breakers 1. **GRADE 16:** Sydney Olympic 5 Sutherland Sharks 0, Marconi Stallions 1 Fairfield Bulls 0, Leichhardt Tigers 7 Eastern Suburbs Wanderers 1, Penrith Panthers 3 Bankstown City 1, St George 1 Parramatta Eagles 1, Sydney United 1 Wollongong Wolves 2, Manly Warringah Dolphins 2 Canterbury Marrickville 0, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 2 Central Coast Coasties 0, Northern Spirit 5 Newcastle Breakers 2.

DIVISION ONE YOUTH LEAGUE: GRADE 13: AC United 1 Southern Branch 0, Blacktown Association 1 Illawarra Lions 2, Ryde City 2 Mt Pritchard 0, Hills United 0 Hajduk Wanderers 0, Stanmore Hawks 2 Canterbury Association 2, Nepean Association 0 Rockdale City Suns 2. **GRADE 14:** AC United 0 Southern Branch 5, Blacktown Association 2 Illawarra Lions 0, Ryde City 1 Mt Pritchard 1, Hills United 0 Hajduk Wanderers 2, Stanmore Hawks 2 Canterbury Association 3, Nepean Association 4 Rockdale City Suns 2. **GRADE 15:** AC United 0 Stanmore Hawks 2, AC United 2 Southern Branch 4, Blacktown Association 0 Illawarra Lions 1, Ryde City 2 Mt Pritchard 0, Hills United 1 Hajduk Wanderers 1, Stanmore Hawks 0 Canterbury Association 1, Nepean Association 0 Rockdale City Suns 2. **GRADE 16:** AC United Stanmore Hawks Washed Out, AC United 1 Southern Branch 0, Blacktown Association 0 Illawarra Lions 2, Ryde City 2 Mt Pritchard 6, Hills United 1 Hajduk Wanderers 2, Stanmore Hawks 3 Canterbury Association 0, Nepean Association 2 Rockdale City Suns 1.

DIVISION TWO YOUTH LEAGUE: GRADE 13: M.S.C. Liverpool 0 Camden Tigers 1, Central Coast Lakers 4 Ku-Ring-Gai Association 0, CSI Schofields 7 Hurstville City 1, Granville Association 1 Hawkesbury City 6, Parramatta City 2 Mt Druitt Town Rangers 1, Hawkesbury City 3 Mt Druitt Town Rangers 1, Camden Tigers 7 Granville Association 0. **GRADE 14:** M.S.C. Liverpool 0 Camden Tigers 1, Central Coast Lakers 1 Ku-Ring-Gai Association 1, CSI Schofields 3 Hurstville City 2, Granville Association 0 Hawkesbury City 4, Parramatta City 0 Mt Druitt Town Rangers 5, Hawkesbury City 0 Mt Druitt Town Rangers 3, Camden Tigers 7 Granville Association 0. **GRADE 15:** M.S.C. Liverpool 2 Camden Tigers 2, Central Coast Lakers 1 Ku-Ring-Gai Association 2, CSI Schofields 3 Hurstville City 2, Granville Association 6 Hawkesbury City 5, Parramatta City 3 Mt Druitt Town Rangers 4, Hawkesbury City 1 Mt Druitt Town Rangers 2, Camden Tigers 0 Granville Association 2. **GRADE 16:** M.S.C. Liverpool 2 Camden Tigers 0, Central Coast Lakers 0 Ku-Ring-Gai Association 0, CSI Schofields 2 Hurstville City 2, Granville Association 0 Hawkesbury City 2, Parramatta City 3 Mt Druitt Town Rangers 0, Hawkesbury City 0 Mt Druitt Town Rangers 0, Camden Tigers 4 Granville Association 1.

SUPER CADET LEAGUE: GRADE 11: Central Coast Coasties 3 Marconi Stallions 1, Leichhardt Tigers 2 Blacktown City 1, Sydney Olympic 0 Sutherland Sharks 0, Marconi Stallions 6 Fairfield Bulls 0, Leichhardt Tigers 3 Eastern Suburbs Wanderers 0, Penrith Panthers 2 Bankstown City Cubs 2, St George 0 Parramatta Eagles 1, Blacktown City Demons 0 Macarthur Rams 0, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0 Central Coast Coasties 4, Sydney United 0 Wollongong Wolves 0, Manly Warringah Dolphins 2 Canterbury Marrickville 1. **GRADE 12:** Central Coast Coasties 2 Marconi Stallions 2, Leichhardt Tigers 0 Blacktown City 4, Sydney Olympic 0 Sutherland Sharks 1, Marconi Stallions 8 Fairfield Bulls 1, Leichhardt Tigers 3 Eastern Suburbs Wanderers 1, Penrith Panthers 5 Bankstown City Cubs 2, St George 1 Parramatta Eagles 1, Blacktown City Demons 2 Macarthur Rams 0, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0 Central Coast Coasties 6, Sydney United 2 Wollongong Wolves 0, Manly Warringah Dolphins 0 Canterbury Marrickville 1.

CADET LEAGUE DIVISION ONE: GRADE 11: Hawkesbury City 1 Ryde City 8, AC United 3 M.S.C. Liverpool 1, Illawarra Lions 0 Central Coast Lakers 0, Hurstville City 3 CSI Schofields 3, Hills United 3 Hajduk Wanderers 1, Mt Druitt Town Rangers 0 Stanmore Hawks 0, Mt Pritchard 1 Ryde City 1, Rockdale City Suns 0 Parramatta City 3, Hawkesbury City 1 M.D.S.F.A. Cadets 4. **GRADE 12:** Hawkesbury City 2 Ryde City 3, AC United 4 M.S.C. Liverpool 1, Illawarra Lions 2 Central Coast Lakers 0, Hurstville City 0 CSI Schofields 2, Hills United 3 Hajduk Wanderers 2, Mt Druitt Town Rangers 3 Stanmore Hawks 1, Mt Pritchard 1 Ryde City 6, Rockdale City Suns 3 Parramatta City 2, Hawkesbury City 2 M.D.S.F.A. Cadets 0.

Demons leave Hagger on bench and still win!

PENRITH PANTHERS 0 BLACKTOWN DEMONS 2

Bradley 20, Hagger 67.

Sunday afternoon at Andrews Road Field, Sydney.



Paul Yates was outstanding in the Demons' defence and linked up well with his midfield and it was one of his forays forward that led to his team's second goal in the 67th minute.

Receiving the ball wide on the right from Paul Dee, Yates sent over a measured cross for the competition's leading scorer, Mark Hagger, to hammer over the line with a powerful header.

Hagger had started on the bench as coach Brian Brown did not wish to alter his forward line after all three - Jason Bennett, Naoki Imai and Zlatko Donev(2) - had scored in the hammering of the Tigers which Hagger missed through suspension. Hagger had to wait until half time before he joined the contest, replacing the injured Damien Foxe.

Blacktown opened the scoring in the 20th minute when Damien Brown played Chris Bradley in with a short pass outside the box and Bradley, opting for placement rather than power, steered the ball just inside the left-hand upright.

Danny Hinton replied with two efforts for Penrith in the 29th and 32nd minutes but was off target on both occasions and one minute later the Panthers goalie Ivan Neceveski, displayed his agility when made a fine save from Bennett.

Hagger's injection into the second half livened up the proceedings and three times he almost scored with headers before finally nailing his 18th goal of the season.

Penrith went close to opening its account in the 71st minute but a timely tackle inside the area from Bradley snuffed out the danger as Sandro Brosato was shaping to shoot and again in the 78th minute, this time the safe hands of Fernando Greco preventing Allan Picken's header from finding the net.

BLACKTOWN CITY DEMONS: Greco, Foxe (Hagger 46), Langan, Bradley, Riches, Yates, Brown, Dee, Imai, Donev (Connolly 83), Bennett (Baccan 83). Subs not used: Reid, Sermanni.

PENRITH PANTHERS: Neceveski, Sweeney (Warobiej 75), Daview (Buckpitt 62), Wright, Casserly, Ackerley (Borsato 23), Hinton, M. Driene, Picken, A. Driene, S. Casserly.

Yellow Cards:
Demons: Donev 33.
Panthers: Buckpitt 70.

Best Players:
Demons: Yates, Dee, Donev.
Dolphins: Wright, Hinton, Neceveski.



Paul Dee: one of Demons' best.

The Blacktown City Demons followed their 4-1 Anzac Day demolition of Leichhardt Tigers with a solid 2-0 win over an industrious Penrith Panthers last Sunday afternoon.

The Panthers, although recording only one loss in their previous four games, are having a baptism of fire in their first year in the Super League.

But under their affable coach, Stan Ackerley, they don't give points away too easily and this match was no exception.

Defender Ben Wright epitomized the Panthers' spirit with a never-say-die effort at the back and up front Danny Hinton was full of running, but as a whole, they weren't able to match the all-round ability of the reigning Premiers.

The Demons were not able to reproduce the free-flowing football that overwhelmed the Tigers mainly due to the very uneven pitch surface which seemed to conspire against them. Nevertheless, Blacktown was a cut above the home side and always appeared to be in control.

Super League Tables

FIRST GRADE:	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
BONNYRIGG WHITE EAGLES	17	13	0	4	50	29	39	21
Blacktown City Demons	17	12	2	3	49	15	38	34
St George Saints	17	10	3	4	31	20	33	11
Leichhardt Tigers	16	10	2	4	38	26	32	12
Parramatta Eagles	17	6	9	2	36	26	27	10
Central Coast Coasties	16	6	5	5	26	20	23	6
Fairfield Bulls	17	6	3	8	28	30	21	-2
Canterbury Marrickville	17	7	0	10	25	40	21	-15
Bankstown City Lions	17	5	5	7	23	24	20	-1
Eastern Suburbs	17	6	1	10	31	40	19	-9
Macarthur Rams	17	4	5	8	21	26	17	-5
Sutherland Sharks	17	4	2	11	20	43	14	-23
Penrith Panthers	16	4	2	10	16	39	14	-23
Manly Warringah Dolphins	16	2	5	9	17	33	11	-16

UNDER 21	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
CENTRAL COAST COASTIES	16	11	2	3	32	16	35	16
Blacktown City Demons	16	10	4	2	39	18	34	21
Penrith Panthers	16	9	1	6	30	23	28	7
Leichhardt Tigers	15	8	3	4	33	21	27	12
Parramatta Eagles	17	7	4	6	25	20	25	5
Eastern Suburbs	17	6	5	6	28	31	23	-3
St George Saints	17	6	4	7	27	28	22	-1
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	17	5	5	7	27	27	20	0
Manly Warringah Dolphins	16	6	2	8	29	35	20	-6
Sutherland Sharks	17	5	5	7	26	35	20	-9
Macarthur Rams	17	6	2	9	23	32	20	-9
Canterbury Marrickville	17	6	2	9	27	37	20	-10
Fairfield Bulls	17	5	3	9	26	36	18	-10
Bankstown City Lions	17	3	4	10	30	43	13	-13

UNDER 18	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
PARRAMATTA EAGLES	17	12	2	3	50	22	38	28
Fairfield Bulls	17	12	1	4	34	19	37	15
Blacktown City Demons	16	10	5	1	31	12	35	19
Leichhardt Tigers	14	9	2	3	35	22	29	13
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	17	8	3	6	29	25	27	4
Central Coast Coasties	16	7	2	7	32	23	23	9
Macarthur Rams	16	6	5	5	26	22	23	4
Penrith Panthers	16	5	7	4	29	21	22	8
Bankstown City Lions	17	6	3	8	25	31	21	-6
Sutherland Sharks	17	5	5	7	23	23	20	0
Eastern Suburbs	17	4	5	8	24	43	17	-19
St George Saints	17	3	5	9	22	50	14	-28
Manly Warringah Dolphins	16	3	2	11	16	28	11	-12
Canterbury Marrickville	17	0	3	14	11	46	3	-35

SUPER LEAGUE ROUND EIGHTEEN



Official clothing supplier to the NSW Soccer Federation



Saturday 6 May

Central Coast Coasties v Penrith Panthers - Plum Park

Games 6.00pm (1st grade) - 4.00pm (21s) - 2.00pm (18s)

Sutherland Sharks v Manly Warringah - Seymour Shaw

Games 7.00pm (1st grade) - 5.00pm (21s) - 3.00pm (18s)

Blacktown City v St George Saints - Gabbie Stadium

Games 6.00pm (1st grade) - 4.00pm (21s) - 2.00pm (18s)

Sunday 7 May

Parramatta Eagles v Bonnyrigg W. E. - Melita Stadium

Games 3.00pm (1st grade) - 1.00pm (21s) - 11.00am (18s)

Canterbury Marrickville v Macarthur Rams - Henson Park

Games 3.00pm (1st grade) - 1.00pm (21s) - 11.00am (18s)

Fairfield Bulls v Bankstown City Lions - Nineveh Park

Games 3.00pm (1st grade) - 1.00pm (21s) - 11.00am (18s)

Eastern Suburbs v Leichhardt Tigers - Wentworth Park

Game 3.00pm(1st grade) - 1.00pm (21s) -11.00am (18s)

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FIRST GRADE SUPER LEAGUE

BONNYRIGG WHITE EAGLES 4

(J Ghisso 44/67m C Luff83/85m)

CANTERBURY MARRICKVILLE BERRIES 0

CENTRAL COASTIES 0

MANLY WARRINGAH DOLPHINS 0

ST GEORGE SAINTS 0

PARRAMATTA EAGLES 0

LEICHHARDT TIGERS 2

(V Tomasevic 11m J Stubbs-Mills 28m)

MACARTHUR RAMS 1

(M O'Shea 84m)

PENRITH PANTHERS 0

BLACKTOWN CITY DEMONS 2

(C Bradley 27m M Hagger67m)

BANKSTOWN CITY LIONS 1

(I McDonald 79m)

SUTHERLAND SHARKS 2

(C Karanasos 44m J Corbo 72m),

EASTERN SUBURBS WANDERERS 2

(S McComb 1m pen PPulicino 80m)

FAIRFIELD BULLS 4

(M Borg 15m G Zabetakis 24m S Larocca 44m,T Omac 65m).

UNDER 21:

Bonnyrigg White Eagles 4

Canterbury M'ckville 0

Manly Warringah 1

Parramatta Eagles 3

Macarthur Rams 1

Blacktown City 1

Sutherland Sharks 4

Fairfield Bulls 1

UNDER 18:

Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1

Canterbury M'ckville

Manly Warringah 2

Parramatta Eagles 4

Blacktown City 4

Sutherland Sharks 0

Fairfield Bulls 4

Leichhardt Tigers vs Macarthur Rams Postponed

WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE ROUND TEN RESULTS

Northern NSW/HAS 2

Manly 4

Macarthur Rams 0

NSW Academy 0

Sutherland Sharks 2

Nepean Association 2

Wollongong Wolves 3

Central Coast Lakers 3

Coasties start apprentice scheme with Leary



any financial recompense to the said SL clubs.

To try and right this anomaly, that has cost Super League clubs many thousands of dollars, the NSW Soccer Federation recently introduced an apprentice contract for players under 18 years of age which will entitle the clubs to receive a compensation fee similar to fully contracted players.

One of the first clubs to evoke an apprentice contract was the Central Coast Coasties who have recently placed 17-year-old striker Peter Leary on such a contract.

Leary, who hails from Sydney, started playing at six years of age in the Guildford U7 team. He continued with that club until he was selected in the Granville District U12 representative team in the NSW Youth League competition.

In 1995 the Leary family moved to the Central Coast and Peter joined the Coasties. He was immediately chosen for the U13 team and has gone through each consecutive age group of the youth teams and in the 1999 season he was chosen in the U18 senior team.

He was again selected in that team of the current season, played a couple of games in that grade and was promoted to the Coasties' top of the table U21 team.

Leary's progress was such that senior

coach Dale Eggleton saw his immediate future was in the first grade side for which he has played his last few games, sometimes in the starting line-up and sometimes as a substitute.

Not bad for a 17 year old.

The young Coastie is in his last year at Terrigal High School and currently is part of his school's first grade team. He was also a member of the Central Coast Academy for a number of years.

A serious knee injury a couple of years ago threatened his soccer career but such is his passion for the game that he worked hard to get over his injuries and benefited greatly from his commitment and got back onto the field of play.

Coach Eggleton feels that with a couple of more years' experience in first grade Leary will prove to be a great asset to the Coasties in the future.

As the first contracted apprentice for the

Coasties the club's board of directors obviously agreed with their coach's thoughts.

The club will in no way hinder any offers they may receive for Leary, or any other young player, to play at a higher level.

Who knows, he may join other young Central Coast players such as Jess Van Stratten (Australian U17 World Cup goalkeeper), Jamie McMaster (Leeds United and England U18 team member), or Glen Sprod and Andrew Clark, now playing in the National Soccer League competition with Cosmos and Breakers respectively.

Whatever his future, and it looks like it will be a big one. Leary's apprenticeship will be of great benefit to him and tangible proof that players at Super League level, and their clubs, will get a fair go from the system.



Central Coast lacking firepower

For the fear of being repetitive, the Coasties again squandered three points in a match that they completely dominated except in the goal scoring department.

Having nineteen shots on goal against Manly's four and twelve corners against three tells the story of this match.

Coasties surprised by starting with young Dane Hokin instead of Paul Roberts whilst the Dolphins played new signing from Bathurst, Dominic Catanzariti.

For the first ten minutes it was midfield 'inaction' with each side feeling out its opponent.

First sign of life was when Mark Beldham picked up a Manly throw in and fired a quick shot across the Coasties goal but the ball flew harmlessly wide.

Stuart Sontag then decided to test Dean McCreath in the Manly goal but his 20 metre drive suffered the same fate - and that was a sign of what was to follow.

Beldham made a run down the right put over a dangerous looking cross but Coasties' keeper Gary Meier took an easy ball unchallenged.

Hokin then got up well to a Peter Ritchie (pictured) cross but McCreath easily held the header.

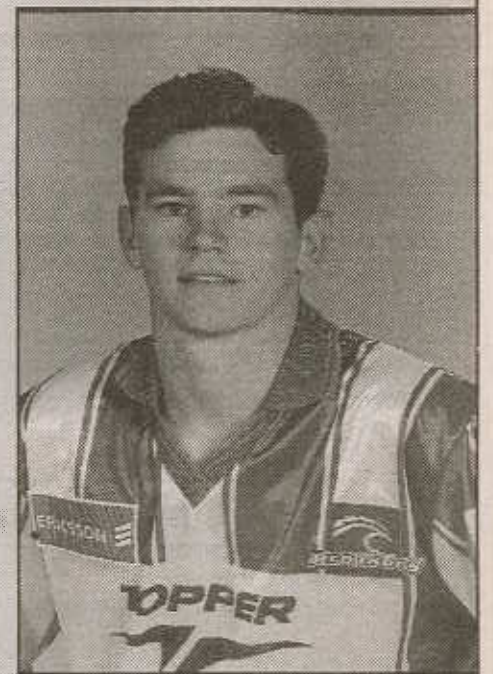
From then on it was all the Coasties - Adam Peatey, Mitchell Daley, Sean Matthew, and Nathan Byrn all had shots on goal but watched as they sailed high, wide and not so handsome!

Ten minutes after the break Carl Roper nearly woke the boy on the scoreboard - his header from a Hokin cross hit the intersection of the post and the crossbar, bounced back to Roper, lying on the ground, who had the audacity to try and score with a header from his prone position.

Apart from a couple of good efforts by Beldham and a good move between the Webb brothers, Dean and Shane, the Coasties continued the second half as they did the first - but the kid on the scoreboard went back to sleep!

Finally, referee, Alex Spirovski, put everybody out of their misery and blew full time.

Coasties coach, Dale Eggleton, left the ground straight after the match as he had had a bad case of the flu for a couple of days. His



team's goal scoring attempts would certainly not have made him feel any better!

Manly coach Tony Pezzano was surprised when told his had team only four shots at goal - his comment was, 'that many!'

Each team earned a point - Pezzano was elated whilst Eggleton felt sick(er)!

Central Coast Coasties:

Meier, Matthews, Steele, Drysdale, Peatey (Marshall), Roper, Daley, Byrn (Roberts), Hokin (Leary), Ritchie, Sontag.

Manly Warringah Dolphins:

McCreath, Mikulski, Kuhn (Wilson), Wiles, Beldham, Catanzariti (Ranaldi), Hickman, D. Webb, S. Webb, Petteon, Martin (Godwin).

Yellows:

Coasties: Steele, Ritchie.
Bankstown: McCreath.

Referee: Alex Spirovski.

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CENTRAL COAST

COASTIES

V

PENRITH

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ADULTS \$10 - CONCESSION/STUDENTS \$5
WE DO NOT CHARGE FOR KIDS UNDER 16



Fawkner shock 'soulless' Phoenix with four of the best

ALTONA EAST PHOENIX 0 FAWKNER BLUES 4

Duzel 5, Grimand 20, Stojcevski 78, Murphy 89.

Sunday afternoon at Paisley Reserve, North Altona. Crowd: 250.

By Markian Jaworsky

A four-nil scoreline in a match between the third placed and second from bottom wouldn't be such a surprise if it wasn't the third placed team that was belted.

But that was the story out of North Altona, leaving supporters of both Altona East and Fawkner scratching their heads.

A result prompting Altona East president, Michael Tsigrisidis to say: "This is not our team today... I don't know where their souls are."

There was no stopping Fawkner, in fact

they jumped Altona East at the beginning of the match. With barely enough time for supporters to saucer their hot dogs, Josip Biskic opened up Ivan

Duzel on the left to run into the box evading a couple of challenges before blasting the ball across the goal and into the top corner.

With Altona on the backfoot Fawkner continued to press, on the 20 minute mark, Fawkner defender John Grimand tried his luck and lobbed the advancing Sam Frangos to double Fawkner's lead.

Fawkner noted by Inside Soccer last month for its weakness with defensive headers have certainly improved their game. With Peter Bordignon playing a central/sweeping role in defense, it was a very unfam-

iliar organised Fawkner defense.

Altona couldn't find a way through, and John Dimitrelos, one of Altona's better strikes on goal was repeated closed down on the edge of the Fawkner penalty box.

Altona did improve in the second half, but it simply wasn't their day.

Nick Papadopoulos was presented with a golden chance just 2 metres in front of goal after 55 minutes, but gifted Fawkner keeper Maurice Gonzalez saved incredibly.

Ten minutes later Altona's Daniel Genovski went past Gonzalez and passed to Armour, whose weak shot was cleared off the line.

With Fawkner playing nearly all its players behind the ball at this stage, there play was reduced to a counter attack, working only in their favour.

Ivan Duzel crossed for Robert Stojcevski to score the third. Fawkner substitute Craig Murphy wrapped up the scoring with a fine individual effort on the stroke of full-time.

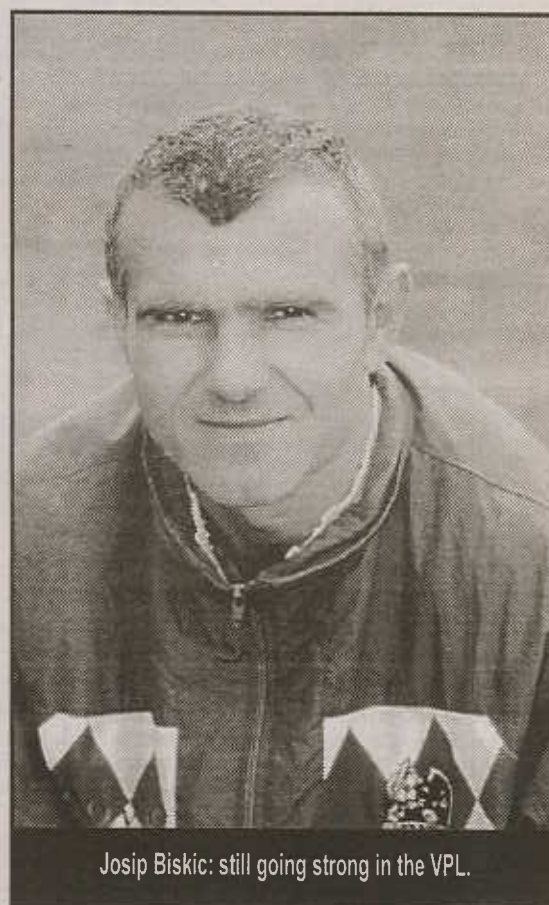
ALTONA EAST:

Frangos, Antoniadis, Valentic (Novaceski 75), DeAmicis, Dimitrelos (Troise 57), Donnelly, Antoniadis, Groidis (Armour 57), Bartol, Papadopoulos, Genovesi.

FAWKNER BLUES:

Gonzalez, Tramontana, Stojcevski, Grimand, Schipano, De Santis (Vazzocchi 74), Bordignon, Biskic (Murphy 84), Psaros, Duzel, Sherifovski.

Referee: Kidi Arturi



Josip Biskic: still going strong in the VPL.

Yellow:

Altona East: Armour 60

Man of the Match:

3. IVAN DUZEL (FAWKNER BLUES)
2. John Grimand (Fawkner Blues)
1. Peter Bordignon (Fawkner Blues)

VPL RESULTS FIRST GRADE

ST. ALBANS SAINTS 1

(Zilic I)

ALTONA MAGIC 0

HEIDELBERG UNITED 5

(Brown C, Opazo A, Angelos G, Charalambous A, Di Iorio P)

OAKLEIGH CANNONS 1

(Sastre J)

BULLEEN ZEBRAS 2

(Sakaci B, Emsovski C)

GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS 1

(Becvinovski S)

BENTLEIGH GREENS 1

(Rossios N)

PORT MELBOURNE SHARKS 1

(Pappas J)

ALTONA EAST PHOENIX 0 FAWKNER BLUES 4

(Stojcevski R, Grimaud J, Duzel I, Murphy C)

RESERVES:

St. Albans Saints 1 Altona Magic 1

Heidelberg U'td 2 Oakleigh Cans 3

Bulleen Zebras 2 Green Gully 1

Bentleigh Greens 0 Port Melb 2

Altona East 1 Fawkner Blues 2

PLAYED MONDAY NIGHT:

Melbourne Raiders v Preston Lions

FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Green Gully Cavaliers	12	9	1	2	26	9	28
St. Albans Saints	12	6	3	3	23	14	21
Bentleigh Greens	12	6	3	3	20	13	21
Altona East Phoenix	12	5	3	4	14	17	18
Altona Magic	12	4	4	4	13	15	16
Bulleen Zebras	12	4	3	5	17	20	15
Fawkner Blues	12	3	4	5	14	16	13
Preston Lions	11	3	4	4	13	15	13
Heidelberg United	12	4	1	7	19	24	13
Oakleigh Cannons	12	3	4	5	18	25	13
Port Melb'Rne Sharks	12	3	3	6	19	24	12
Melbourne Raiders	11	2	5	4	11	15	11

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Green Gully Cavaliers	12	8	2	2	41	15	26
Bentleigh Greens	12	8	0	4	40	19	24
St. Albans Saints	12	5	6	1	26	19	21
Port Melbourne Sharks	12	6	3	3	27	22	21
Altona Magic	12	5	3	4	29	29	18
Bulleen Zebras	12	4	3	5	33	25	15
Preston Lions	11	3	6	2	27	20	15
Fawkner Blues	12	4	3	5	25	31	15
Altona East Phoenix	12	4	2	6	19	26	14
Melbourne Raiders	11	2	4	5	20	34	10
Oakleigh Cannons	12	2	3	7	12	35	9
Heidelberg United	12	1	3	8	14	38	6



VICTORIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

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ROUND THIRTEEN

Friday 5 May

Oakleigh Cannons v St Albans Saints - Jack Edwards Reserve
8.15(First Grade)/6.15 (Reserves)

Saturday 6 May

Port Melbourne Sharks v Bulleen Zebras - SS Anderson Reserve
8.15(First Grade)/6.15 (Reserves)

Alton Magic v Melbourne Raiders - Paisley Reserve
7.00(First Grade)/5.00 (Reserves)

Sunday 7 May

Preston Lions v Altona East Phoenix - BT Cononor Reserve
3.00(First Grade)/1.00Reserves)

Fawkner Blues v Bentleigh Greens - CB Smith Reserve
3.00(First Grade)/1.00Reserves)

Monday 8 May

Heidelberg United v Green Gully Cavaliers - Olympic Village
8.15(First Grade)/6.15Reserves)

More excitement galore in South Australia

PREMIER LEAGUE	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Adelaide Blue Eagles	11	9	1	1	34	7	27	28
Croydon Kings	11	8	0	3	30	13	17	24
Modbury	11	8	0	3	15	12	3	24
Port Lion	11	6	1	4	21	14	7	19
Campbelltown City	11	5	1	5	16	21	-5	16
Elizabeth City	11	4	2	5	20	19	1	14
Adelaide City	11	4	2	5	20	19	1	14
White City Warriors	11	4	1	6	7	13	-6	13
Raiders	11	4	0	7	15	18	-3	12
Cumberland United	11	3	1	7	11	22	-11	10
West Torrens Birkalla	11	2	3	6	12	26	-14	9
Metro Stars	11	2	2	7	12	27	-15	8

STATE LEAGUE	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Olympic FC	11	9	2	0	28	8	20	29
Para Hills Knights	11	6	4	1	28	12	16	22
Port Pirie City	11	6	3	2	27	15	12	21
Salisbury United	11	6	1	4	21	20	1	19
Noarlunga United	11	6	0	5	17	16	1	18
Adelaide Cobras	11	5	2	4	21	18	3	17
Northern Demons	11	5	2	4	22	20	2	17
Western Strikers	11	3	6	2	19	18	1	15
Enfield City	11	3	3	5	23	25	-2	12
Adelaide Hills	11	2	1	8	15	32	-17	7
Panthers	11	1	1	9	11	28	-17	4
Seaford	11	1	1	9	9	29	-20	4

By Donald Campbell and Margaret Bowden

Second placed Croydon Kings extended their winning streak, blitzing Cumberland Foxes 5-3 in an all-action clash at Bailey Reserve. Eight goals; three penalties; last year's SASF Player of the Year Les Maticsek sent off - what a game!

1-0 up at half time through Michael Pirone, the Kings ran

hot in the second, racing to 4-0, Joel Porter scoring two and Danny Pitucci one. Dave Forster pulled one back for the Foxes from the penalty spot, but Sam Barabaro replied immediately to make it 5-1.

The Foxes refused to give in, Nick Mitchell and Adrian landiorio scoring a goal each to make the score more respectable.

Modbury Jets retained third spot with a hard fought 1-0 win over North East Metro Stars. Andy Doran scored the winner in the 11th minute to dent the Stars' hopes of getting off the bottom of the table. This was an end-to-end thriller.

Both goalkeepers Robbie Matosevic and Ben Moore were outstanding.

Blue Eagles continued their dominance of the League, goal sensation Michael Brooks scoring another two in their 4-1 defeat of Elizabeth City Rams.

The game could have gone anyone's way up until half time with the scores locked at 1-1. But a second half red card to Rams' regular scorer Stephen Kidd put the knockers on Elizabeth. Other scorers for Blue Eagles were Artone and Deleso, while Aaron Goulding scored the Rams' only goal.

Campbelltown Red Devils, given little hope of doing well this season, surprised the pundits by accounting for fourth placed Port Lion Pirates 1-0.

The win sees the Red Devils jump 3 places on the League ladder to 5th. Super sub Ryan Mitchell scored the winner twelve minutes from full time.

Hugo Gimenez has really turned things around for White City Woodville. Languishing near the bottom of the table in the early rounds, White City are now well and truly on the up.

With new recruit Sam McMillan from Elizabeth City, they did just enough to snatch the points 1-0 from Charlie Villani's West Torrens Birkalla boys.

Raiders, the only team in the League without a permanent home ground, strung together their second successive win, downing Milan Ivanovic's Adelaide City 2-1.

Stanko Zilic put the home side 1-0 ahead in the first half, then City's ultra-talented Scott Tunbridge equalised in the second half.

Unfortunately for City, Josh Romanowicz put the ball into his own net to give Raiders the game!

It was first versus last in the clash between Olympic and Seaford, Olympic scoring a goal in each half to defeat the Surfers 2-0. Costallos was the 2-goal hero for the league leaders, but Seaford put up a determined fight to prevent a higher score.

Second placed Para Hills Knights dropped another point, drawing 2-2 with Enfield City. True to form, the Knights came from 0-1 down in the first half to go 2-1 up, only to concede a second goal late in the game. Scorers for the Knights were Bell and Cook, while Sanger and Abraham found the net for Enfield.

Noarlunga Bulldogs made the trip up to Adelaide Hills Hawks and went home with 3 points, defeating the home side 3-0. Mark Donk put the Bulldogs 1-0 up after only 6 minutes. From then on the Hawks had most of the play but couldn't get the ball into the net, missing the influence of injured striker Andy Kay. With 15 minutes to go, Duncan Mather pounced on a partial clearance and smashed in a 20 metre screamer. Sub Chris Smith scored the Bulldog's third five minutes from time.

Northern Demons put an end to the Cobras' winning streak, scoring a goal in each half to win 2-1. N. Konstandopoulos scored for Cobras in the first half, keeping the game alive at 1-1 before succumbing to the home side in the second. S. Salvemini and M. Bellifemini scored for the Demons.

The talented Salisbury United got back to their winning ways after last week's ordinary showing against Para Hills, defeating the Panthers 4-0. The Panthers held Salisbury to only one goal in the first half, but the home team ran over them in the second. Scorers for Salisbury were Elliot (2), Kolovinos and Robson.

Western Strikers put up the shutters on in-form Port Pirie City, holding them to a 0-0 draw at home. Both sides played attacking football for the full 90 minutes, but neither could break through. The draw edged Port Pirie one point closer to second placed Para Hills.

Bill Turner Cup results

Qualifying Round

Toormina 4 Coffs Harbour
Balranald 1 Hillston Central 0
Concordia 4 Centenary Heights 2

Round 1

Westport 4 Camden Haven 2
Notre Dame 5 Galen College 1
Koorlingal 7 St Michaels Wagga 2
Tumut 3 Gundagai 0
Cootamundra 4 Junee 0
St Francis Leeton 4 Leeton 1
Balranald Central 3 Hay 0
Denilquin 3 Barham 0
St Pauls Walla Walla 4 Finley 1
Mareeba 5 Mt Saint Bernard 1
Trinity Bay 3 Smithfield 2
Trinity Anglican 9 Peace Lutheran 0
Innisfail 3 Good Counsel 2
Cathedral 2 Townsville Grammar 1
Kirwan 8 Pimlico 2
Ignatius Park 2 William Ross 1
Mirani 3 Prosperine 0
Mackay North 3 Pioneer 0
Caloundra 3 Maroochydore 2
St Johns Nambour 3 Nambour 0
Downlands 4 Clifton 2
Pittsworth 7 Christian Outreach 0
Lockyer 4 Concordia 0
Stanthorpe 7 Warwick 1
Villanova 5 St Thomas More 0
Christian Outreach Mansfield 3 Redlands 0
Marsden 2 John Paul 1
Somerset College 3 St Michaels Carrara 0
Kings Christian 2 Robina 0

By Nick Guoth

ANZAC Day saw the Canberra Rockets defeat a Turkish All-Star team 2-1 at Bruce Stadium, to win the first ANZAC Cup. The Turkish side was made up of the best players from the Turkish community in Australia.

They drew first blood, scoring in the 6th minute. From a corner, Urat Sevin hit a low, curling drive to the top of the six yard box. Ertune Kaya then sliced the ball through, and off a bunch of Rockets at the goal mouth to score.

In the 37th minute, the Turks had a chance to go up 2-0. Mustafa Kadayifci, on his own side of halfway, chipped a long ball over to the left behind the Rockets backline. Ahmet Uyanik beat the offside trap and raced away away towards goal, and a one-on-one with Rockets captain and goal keeper Tony Giannasca. Coming in from the left, Uyanik turned to the right, trying to get around Giannasca. The keeper remained cool and simply dived at the ball as Uyanik dribble sideways and smothered it as the Turkish striker fell over the top of him. Although Giannasca was lucky not to concede a penalty, he was effective nonetheless.

Four minutes later the rockets equalised through Jim Baxter. On the right hand side, just outside the penalty area, John Rakic fired a ball into the left side of the six yard box where it was met by Neil Stoddard right on the backline. He pushed the ball across the goal face where Jim Baxter circled around and tapped it in.

After going in 1-all at halftime, the Rockets found their groove and started to control the game. Five minutes into the second half, the Rockets came close to scoring from a corner. Rakic kicked across the goal to the left side where Jason Dunn headed it straight into the post. The Turkish side recovered, but less than a minute later they were under pressure again.

Baxter passed to Marc Conlon, who made a good cross towards the six yard box. However, Njegosh popovich completely misjudged the header, and another chance went begging.

In the 59th minute Conlon passed to Elliot Zwangobani down the left side. Zwangobani stopped and crossed the ball to the top of the penalty area to Popovich. He made no mistake this time as he hammered the ball into the top left corner of the

net to put the Rockets up 2-1.

The second half continued on with the Rockets starving the Turkish side of any useful possession. In the 80th minute, Conlon wasted a 4-on-3 match up when he put a long range speculator over the crossbar.

The game finished with the Rockets winning 2-1.

Rockets coach Ian Heywood was a little disappointed with the poor passing in the first half, but conceded that having all his players backing up from games the day before didn't help. He was pleased with the second half, saying it was only a matter of time before his side put the game away.

"Overall it was a good result and again the Rockets have proved they can match it with the best," he said.

In Round Five action Canberra Deakin scored an important win over the Capital City Suns in the match of the round at Riverside Oval in Queanbeyan.

The result, 6-1, brings them back into the race for the championship, whilst leaving the Suns to regroup and get their themselves back on the winning side of the ledger.

Tony Lemezina scored a hatrick with Tommy Bajurin grabbing two and Vince Bodo the last goal, although three of these were after Thai Tran was sent off and into injury time. Tony Aleksovski netted the only reply for the Suns.

In the other important clash of the afternoon an extra-time goal by Scott Manson gave Belconnen a 2-2 draw at Kambah 2 against Tuggeranong United.

All the action was in the second half, but Tuggeranong will be ruing the chance for the victory.

Daniel Camara put Belconnen in front but within less than a minute Scott Conlon set up Loic David for the equaliser and then Conlon directed a lovely freekick around the wall the put Tuggeranong in the lead before Manson put away the tying score in a goal-mouth scramble.

At Majura Oval a very tight contest between Canberra Olympic and University of Canberra finished with a 1-0 win to Olympic. Both sides had chances, but a draw would have been a fairer result.

Njegosh Popovich was the sole scorer late in the match, yet Luis Castro must be unhappy with himself not finishing a great chance five minutes earlier.

University had the ball in the net through Castro in the first half, but it was ruled out through an off-side.

Gungahlin Juventus took their winning streak to five after defeating Burns Club 1-0 in what was a tight match at Jamison Oval.

Gungahlin scored after just 30 seconds when John Glass put a kick forward which was swooped on by George Cattanch who got through some lazy defence to score what was an easy goal.

In the final match youth succumbed to age when Monaro struggled to a 5-0 win over Weston Creek Royals at Woden Park. The Weston defence were solid with Mike Thomson in goals having a superb game, but Monaro finally started to put away their chances, leading 3-0 at the break.

Danny Macor and Matt Julliene both notched a double with new top-goalscorer for the Novell Premier League John Rakic grabbing the first goal of the match.

ROUND FIVE RESULTS:

Premier League 1st Grade:
Gungahlin Juventus 1 Burns FC 0,
Canberra Olympic 1 UCU Pumas 0,
Weston Creek Royals 0 Monaro 5,
Tuggeranong United 2 Belconnen United 2,
Capital City Suns 1 Canberra Deakin 6

Premier League Under 23s:
Gungahlin Juventus 3 Burns FC 2,
Canberra Olympic 3 UCU Pumas 0,
Weston Creek Royals 2 Monaro 3,
Tuggeranong United 0 Belconnen United 2,
Capital City Suns 6 Canberra Deakin 1

Premier League Under 19s:
Gungahlin Juventus 7 Burns FC 1, Weston
Creek Royals 7 Monaro 1, Tuggeranong
United 2 Belconnen United 7, Capital City
Suns 1 Canberra Deakin 3

TABLE: Gungahlin Juventus 15,
Monaro 12, Tuggeranong United 11,
Canberra Deakin 9, Belconnen United 8,
Canberra Olympic 8, Capital City Suns 6,
Burns FC 3, University of Canberra 3,
Weston Creek Royals 2

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE - ROUND THIRTY FOUR

ADELAIDE CITY FORCE v MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

1		2	Joey Rayher	
2	Gianluca Ligati	3	Ivan Jolic	
3	Ivan Zelic	4	Ante Kovacevic	
4		5	Jason Vukadin	
5	Alex Tobin	6	John Didulica	
6	Carlo Talladira	7	Mark Silic	
7	Damian Mori	8	Dragl Nasteovski	
8	Carl Veart	9	Ivan Kelic	
9	Nick Sabljak	10	Paul Urlovic	
10	Aurelio Vidmar	11	Zoltan Zold	
11		12	Murtala Toyin Abbas	
12	Nathan Day	13	Lance Plunkett	
13	John Fusco	14	Paul Magdic	
14	Michael Cartwright	15	Ransford Banini	
15	Louis Braln	16	Alex Kiratzoglou	
16	Matthew Kemp	17	Brandon Vassalo	
17	Angelo Costanzo	18	Rody Vargas	
18	Bradley Hassell	19	Zlatko Maglic	
19	Claudio Pelosi	20	Martin John	
20	Adrian Cagalj	21	Zeljko Susa	
21	Dong Ki Kim	22	Slavko Rados	
22	Shane Thompson	23	Michael Reda	
23	Jonathan Lihou	24	Hrvoje Matkovic	
		25	Adrian Cervinski	
		26	Marko Prskalo	
		30	Lupce Acevski	

Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium - Sunday 7 April 2000 4.30PM
 Head to Head: Played 39 Force wins: 18 Knights wins: 12 Draws 9
 Last Week: Force 2-4 away win over Stallions.
 Knights 4-1 home win over Sydney United.

CANBERRA COSMOS v MARCONI STALLIONS

1		1	Michael Turnbull	
2	David Millin	2	Chad Gibson	
3	Toplica Popovich	3	Mark Babic	
4	Danny Burt	4		
5	Nicholas Purdue	5	Dominic Longo	
6	Jason Polak	6	Pan-Keum Kim	
7	David Winnie	7	Christian Care	
8	Daniel Watkins	8	Darren McDonald	
9	Alex Castro	9	Zeljko Babic	
10	Michael Musitano	10	Brad Maloney	
11	David Arranz	11	Mike Smith	
12	Brian Hamilton	12		
14	Harry James	13	Danny Invincible	
15	Glen Kolpak	14	Buddy Farah	
16	Ilija Prenzowski	15	Pierluigi di Gia	
17	Robbie Hooker	16	Alex Duric	
18	Nikola Mrdja	17	Francis Awaritefe	
19	Geoff Howarth	18	Harry Karl	
20	Grant Barlow	19	Brendan Renaud	
21	Scott Conlon	20	David Aceski	
22	Elliot Zwangobani	21	Paolo Marchesini	
23	Andrew Clark	22	Kris Trajanovski	
24	PJ Roberts	23	Vlado Zoric	
25	Ivo De Jesus	24	Josaia Junior Sauturaga	
26	Gabriel Gonzalez	26	Daniel Severino	
30	Angelo Konstantinou			

Venue: Bruce Stadium - Sunday 7 May 2000 5.00PM
 Head to Head: Played 10 Cosmos wins: 1 Stallions wins: 8 Draws 1
 Last Week: Cosmos 0-2 away win over Falcons.
 Stallions 2-4 home loss to Force.

BRISBANE STRIKERS v GIPPSLAND FALCONS

1	Clint Bolton	1	Bojo Jevdjovic	
2	Glenn Gwynne	2	Dean Fak	
3	Shane Stefanutto	3	Manny Gotis	
4	Andrew Davidson	4	Mehmed Durakovic	
5	Matthew Bell	5	Jeff Hopkins	
6	Brad Ditton	6	Brian MacNichol	
7	Shane Smeltz	7	Andy Vargas	
8	David Pillc	8	Clayton Bell	
9	Paul Foster	9	Robbie Puca	
10	Wayne Srhoj	10	Sandy Robertson	
11	Chay Hews	11	John Hutchinson	
12	Peter Dwyer	12	Peter Kakos	
13	Stuart McClaren	13	Adrian Savage	
14	Jade North	14	Doug Marcina	
15	Adam Webber	15	Jonathon Buhuglar	
16	Peter Grierson	16	Juan Nilo	
17	Jeromy Harris	18	Michael Katz	
18	Nick Meredith	19	Igor Mandic	
19	Wade Baldwin	20	Simon Miotto	
20		21	Ben Cassar	
21	Jon McKain			

Venue: Suncorp Metway Stadium - Sunday 7 May 2000 5.00PM
 Head to Head: Played 18 Strikers wins: 7 Falcons wins: 7 Draws 4
 Last Week: Strikers 2-1 away loss to Kingz.
 Falcons 0-2 home loss to Cosmos.

PARRAMATTA POWER v FOOTBALL KINGZ

1	Andrew Crews	1	Che Bunce	
2	David Barrett	2	Riki Van Steeden	
3	Michael Santalab	3	Jon Lammers	
4	Steve Eagleton	4	Jonathon Perry	
5	Richard Plesa	5	Marcus Stergiopoulos	
6	Joe Vrkic	6	Wynton Rufer	
7	Jacob Burns	7	Chris Jackson	
8	Walter Ardone	8	Fred de Jong	
9	Mile Sterjovski	9	Jeff Campbell	
10	Joel Griffiths	10	Robbie Middleby	
11	Steve Berry	11	Harry Ngata	
12	Stephen Laybutt	12	Levent Osman	
13	Milan Blagojevic	13	Batrum Suri	
14	Jon Angelucci	14	Ivan Vichelich	
15	Danny Townsend	15	Lee Jones	
16	Mark Byrnes	16	Mark Elrick	
17	Danny Kukucka	17		
18	Lachlan Campbell	18		
19	Matt Thompson	19	Leigh Kenyon	
20	Barney Smith	20	Jason Batty	
21	Ahmid Elrich	21	David Moya	
23	John Gibson	22	Aaron Silva	
28	Peter Bennett	23	Daniel Duke	
29		24		
30	Mike Gibson	28	Aaron Lines	
		32	Noah Hickey	

Venue: Parramatta Stadium - Sunday 7 May 2000 5.00PM
 Head to Head: Played 1 Power wins: 0 Kingz wins: 1 Draws 0
 Last week: Power 0-1 away win over Spirit.
 Kingz 2-1 home win over Strikers.

SOUTH MELBOURNE v NEWCASTLE BREAKERS

1	Milan Udvaracz	1	Bob Catlin	
2	Steve Iosifidis	2	Shane Pryce	
3	Fausto de Amicis	3	Andrew Roberts	
4	Nick Orlic	4	Adam Sanderson	
5	Con Blatsis	5	Todd McManus	
6	David Clarkson	6	Glenn Sprod	
7	Steve Panopoulos	7	Travis Dodd	
8	Vaughan Coveny	8	Mark Wilson	
9	Paul Trimboli	9	Chris Tancheski	
10	Michael Curcija	10	John Buonavoglia	
11	John Anastasiadis	11	Luke Tomich	
12	Richie Alagich	12	Robert Anglevski	
13	Adrian Cuzzupe	13	Brad Wleczorek	
14	Anthony Magnacca	14	Greg Owens	
15	Goran Lozanovski	15	Joshua Ferguson	
16		16	Vasko Trpceviski	
17	Jim Tsekinis	17	Paul Wheeler	
18	Robert Liparoti	18	Andrew Harper	
19	Tasos Psonis	19	Chad Mansley	
20	Chris Jones	20	Bradley Swancott	
21	Rade Culbirk	21	Peter Juchniewicz	
22	Mustafa Mustafa	22	Glen Moore	
23	Chris Roche	23	Damien Smith	
24	Andy Vlahos	30	Jason Kos	

Venue: Bob Jane Stadium - Sunday 7 May 2000 5.00PM
 Head to Head: Played 18 South Melbourne wins: 12 Breakers wins: 2 Draws 4
 Last week: South Melbourne 1-2 away win over Breakers.
 Breakers 1-2 home loss to South Melbourne.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC v SYDNEY UNITED

1	Jim Kourtis	1	John Crawley	
2	Scott Thomas	2	Ray Younis	
3	Chris Zoricich	3	Mark Racker	
4	Peter Tsekenis	4	Velimir Kupresak	
5	Scott Baillie	5	Eddie Bosnar	
6	Ante Juric	6	Vince Savocca	
7	Zlatko Arambasic	8	Nahuel Arrarte	
8	Marcus Phillips	9	Mario Jermen	
9	Pablo Cardozo	10	Ante Moric	
10	Brett Emerton	11	Tom Pondeljak	
11	Chris Kalantzis	12	Tom Maric	
12	Sebastian Sinozic	13	Matthew Zec	
14	Gabriel Mendez	14	Kain Rastall	
15	Lindsay Wilson	15	Aytec Genc	
16	George Goutzoulis	16	Joe Moric	
17	Paul Kohler	17	Nick Bosevski	
18	John Kyriazopoulos	18	Steve Bozinovski	
19	Nick Carle	19	Greg Saric	
20	George Bouhoutsos	20	Steve Tolios	
21	Lee Miot	21	Zvonko Usljebrka	
22	Pete Zorbas	22	Colin Luff	
23	Dylan Macallister	23	Terry Palapanis	
24	Norman Tome	24	Andy Rakic	
25	Hussein Jomaa	25	Ante Deak	
26	Alex Duric	26	Fernando Pellegrino	
27	John Perosh	27	Ante Deur	
28	Kresimir Marusic	30	Brett Hughes	
30	John Karoubas			

Venue: Belmore Sports Ground - Sunday 7 May 2000 5.00PM
 Head to Head: Played 35 Olympic wins: 14 United wins: 12 Draws 9
 Last week: Olympic 0-2 home loss to Carlton
 United 4-1 away loss to Knights.

LIVE SUNDAY 7 MAY 5.00PM
C7 SPORT CHANNEL 12

SUNDAY 7 MAY 7.00
C7 SPORT CHANNEL 12

CARLTON V WOLLONGONG WOLVES



- CARLTON:**
- Dean Anastasiadis
 - Dave McPherson
 - Craig Deans
 - Simon Colosimo (below)
 - Sean Douglas
 - Andrew Marth
 - Stuart Slater
 - Mark Atkinson
 - Alex Moreira
 - Lubo Lapsansky
 - Archie Thompson
 - Mike Conroy
 - Steve Martin
 - John Markovski
 - Con Anthopoulos
 - David Terminello
 - Joe Tricarico
 -
 -
 -
 -
 - Andrew Packer
 - Angelo Motsiopoulos
 - Colin Azzopardi
 - Joshua Kennedy
 - Daniel Vasilevski
 - Steve Horvat

- WOLVES:**
- Les Pogliacomi
 - George Souris
 - Alvin Ceccoli
 - Robert Stanton
 - David Cervinski
 - Matt Horsley
 - Paul Reid
 -
 -
 - Stuart Young
 - Scott Chipperfield
 - Neil Harlock
 - Noel Spencer
 - Saso Petrovski
 - David Huxley
 - Peter Lahanas
 - Esala Masi
 - Paul O'Grady
 - Paul Dimech
 - Daniel Beltrame
 - Mark Robertson
 - Ben Blake
 - Dino Mennillo

PERTH GLORY V NORTHERN SPIRIT



- GLORY:**
- Tom Tomich
 - Robert Trajkovski
 - Jamie Harnwell
 - Aurelio
 - Vinko Buljbasic
 - Gareth Naven
 - Scott Miller
 - Troy Halpin
 - Alistair Edwards
 - Bobby Despotoski
 - Kasey Wehrman
 - Peter Buljan
 - James Afkos
 - Dion Valle
 - Edgar Junior
 -
 - Hamilton Thorp
 - John Carbone
 - Tony Franken
 - Ivan Ergic (below)
 - Ljubo Milicevic
 - Jason Petkovic
 - Aaron Cole

- SPIRIT:**
- Robert Enes
 - Matthew Langdon
 - Matthew Bingley
 - Mark Rudan
 - Luke Casserly
 - Robbie Slater
 - Tony Perinich
 - David Seal
 - Nicola Berti
 - Troy Cranney
 - Simon Catanzaro
 - Philip Moss
 - Shane Lyons
 - Anthony Faria
 - Paul Bilokapic
 - Paul Wearne
 - Graham Arnold
 - Jess Van Stratten
 - Michael Cunico
 - Paul Henderson
 - Adam Snyder
 - Elvis Olic
 - Ryan Griffiths
 - Jack Sobczyk
 - Adam Griffiths
 - Abbas Saad
 - Ian Crook
 - Sean Cranney
 - Michael Prentice



Venue: Olympic Park
Sunday 7 May 5.00PM

Head-to-Head: 5
Carlton: 3
Wolves: 2
Draws: 0

Last Week: Carlton 0-2 away win over Olympic.
 Wolves 0-1 home loss to Glory.



Venue: Perth Oval
Sunday 7 May 3.00PM

Head to Head: 3
Glory: 1
Spirit: 1
Draws: 1

Last Week: Glory 0-1 away win over Wolves.
 Spirit 0-1 home loss to Power.



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